

#1
COVER A

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FOR
10

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY, FATHOM — 15 YEARS OF BLUE!

david WOHL • alex KONAT • beth SOTELO • josh REED



A L L N E W
MICHAEL TURNER'S

FATHOM™







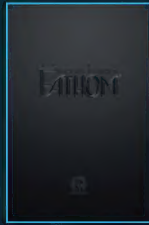
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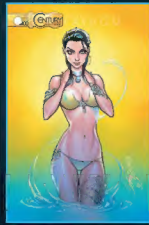
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SEEMING WITH RARE SEA LIFE AND HOME TO A BREATHTAKINGLY GORGEOUS REEF THE GREAT BLUE HOLE IN BELIZE IS ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR DIVING DESTINATIONS IN THE WORLD.

FOR FRANCIS AND STACY COLETTI, IT WAS THE PERFECT SPOT FOR THEIR SECOND HONEYMOON.

THE FATE OF TWO CIVILIZATIONS RESTS IN HER HANDS...

Aspen Matthews grew up a child of the water. A marine biologist, she was intimately tied to the ocean by a thirst for knowledge and a desire to explore the hidden wonders beneath the surface. However, her link to the mystery below was far greater than she could have ever imagined, as Aspen discovered she was the daughter of two worlds—the Human race, and the Blue, a race of beings living deep within the Ocean's massive unknown. After a long and deadly path of startling revelations about her true origin, and the shocking arrival of the Blue above the surface, Aspen has finally declared her own independence from the pressures of both sides. Yet, the world around her continues to struggle to adapt to a new way of life alongside those who dwell below...

"AWAKENINGS"

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plot

DAVID WOHL
script

ALEX KONAT
pencils

MARK ROSLAN, JOHN ERCEK
digital inks

BETH SOTELO
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JOSH REED
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Fathom Created by Michael Turner

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MICHAEL TURNER'S FATHOM™ Vol. 5 Issue 1

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THE PAIR MET 10 YEARS AGO ON A SNORKELING TOUR OF THE GREAT BARRIER REEF IN AUSTRALIA, AND CELEBRATED THEIR FIRST HONEYMOON BENEATH THE CRYSTAL BLUE WATERS OF FIJI.

YOU COULD SAY DIVING WAS IN THEIR BLOOD.



THEY DIDN'T HEAR IT
SO MUCH AS FEEL IT.

EARTHQUAKE, A
BIG ONE, BY THE
LOOK OF IT.

EARTHQUAKE. A BIG ONE, BY THE LOOK OF IT.



FOR A MOMENT THEY WERE PETRIFIED...

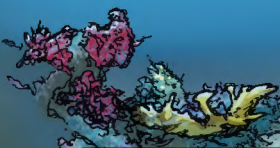
...BUT FEAR GAVE WAY TO AWE, AS FRANCIS REALIZED THEY COULD BE IN THE MIST OF A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME OCCURRENCE.



STACY WASN'T SO SURE.



HOWEVER, CURIOSITY WON OUT, AND AS HE NEARED THE OCEAN FLOOR, FRANCIS KNEW HE WAS WITNESSING SOMETHING SPECIAL...



...SOMETHING RARELY, IF EVER, SEEN BY HUMAN EYES.

ONE DAY HE WOULD TELL HIS GRANDCHILDREN ABOUT THIS MOMENT...



KKSSSSHHHHHHKKKKK

K
U
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K

SUDDENLY, FROM
BENEATH THE
SURFACE, IT ROSE...



...AND ROSE...



...AND ROSE...

AS BEAUTIFUL AS IT
WAS INEXPLICABLE...



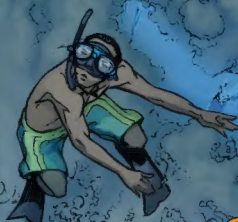
...A MASSIVE, SHEER WALL OF
SOLID ICE IN THE MIDST OF
THIS TROPICAL PARADISE.



...A NEW NATURAL WONDER.



BUT BETWEEN THE RAPIDLY
DROPPING TEMPERATURE
AND THE RISING CLOUDS OF
DEBRIS, STACY KNEW IT
WAS TIME FOR THEM TO GO.



THINGS SUDDENLY
FELT... VERY WRONG.



THIS TIME, HER
HUSBAND DIDN'T
DISAGREE. HE
FELT IT TOO.



BUT AS HE CLIMBED, IT
SEEMED LIKE THE CLOUD
WAS FOLLOWING HIM...
AS IF IT WAS...



...ALIVE.

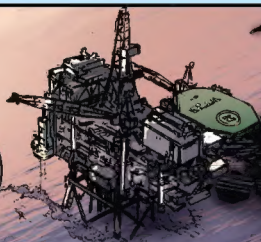


ACCORDING TO LOCAL NEWS
REPORTS, FRANCIS AND
STACY COLETTI EMBARKED
ON A MORNING DIVE ON THE
DAY OF A MOST UNUSUAL
NATURAL PHENOMENON...

NEITHER DIVER
RETURNED THAT
DAY, BELIEVED TO
BE LOST AT SEA.

ELSEWHERE...

THIS IS GABE SAURO COMING TO YOU LIVE FROM THE SEA OF CORTEZ, 200 MILES FROM MAZATLAN, MEXICO, WHERE DISASTER HAS STRUCK!



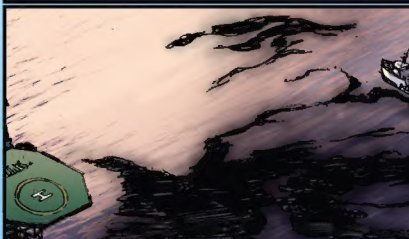
WHAT YOU SEE BEFORE YOU IS THE VORENIUS DEEP SEA OIL PLATFORM BUILT BY RAYMUNDOIL.

BREAKING NEWS

BAJA OIL DISASTER

LIVE
EWN

FOR OVER SEVEN YEARS, THIS PLATFORM HAS PUMPED OVER 600 MILLION GALLONS OF OIL FROM DEEP-SEA SHALE DEPOSITS, WITHOUT INCIDENT, USING A STATE-OF-THE-ART FIBER-OPTIC DRILLING SYSTEM.



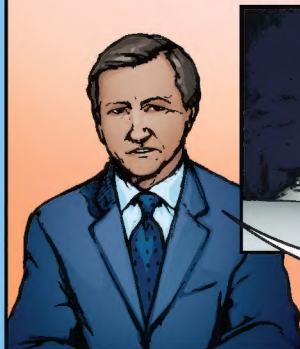
BREAKING NEWS

BAJA OIL DISASTER

LIVE
EWN

EARLY THIS MORNING, ALARM BELLS RANG THROUGHOUT THE RIG, SIGNALING SOME KIND OF MECHANICAL DIFFICULTY MORE THAN A HUNDRED MILES BENEATH THE SEA.

SHORTLY THEREAFTER, HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF GALLONS OF CRUDE OIL BEGAN ERUPTING THROUGH THE OCEAN FLOOR, INTO THE SEA OF CORTEZ.



WHAT YOU SEE NOW IS LIVE FOOTAGE FROM THE SITE OF THE LEAK, MORE THAN 12,000 FEET DOWN.



EXECUTIVES AT RAYMUNDOIL ARE SAYING IT COULD TAKE UP TO TEN DAYS FOR CREWS TO MAKE IT TO THE SITE, DUE TO THE DEPTH OF THE ACCID--
UH--

--EXCUSE ME--
I THOUGHT-- ARE YOU GUYS SEEING THIS???



MY GOD--
I MEAN-- LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, IT SEEMS THAT SOMETHING-- I MEAN, A WOMAN, I THINK-- HAS ARRIVED AT THE SITE.



SHE SEEMS TO BE MANIPULATING THE WATER SOMEHOW-- TO STOP THE FLOW!

I'M TOLD THE WOMAN IS NOTED MARINE BIOLOGIST ASPEN MATTHEWS, WHO WAS CONTACTED BY THE COAST GUARD!

IS SHE, UH, HUMAN?

OH--
I'M TOLD THAT SHE'S, IN FACT, ONE OF THE BLUE:



BELIEVED BY SOME TO BE THE "MISSING LINK," THE BLUE ARE A SPECIES OF WATER-BREATHING HUMANS THAT HAVE THRIVED WITHIN THE EARTH'S OCEANS FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS.

WELL, I DON'T CARE WHAT SHE IS, WE ALL OWE HER A DEBT OF THANKS.

OKAY, AT LEAST
THE LEAK IS
TAKEN CARE OF.



NOW THERE'S JUST THE
MATTER OF ALL THE OIL
THAT GOT OUT IN THE
PAST FEW HOURS...

...MORE THAN ENOUGH
TO WREAK HAVOC WITH
THE ECOSYSTEM HERE.



BY THE TIME THE COAST GUARD
GETS THEIR CLEAN-UP GOING
FULLY, THE DAMAGE WILL
ALREADY BE IMMEASURABLE.

THAT IS NOT
ACCEPTABLE.

NOT ACCEPTABLE AT ALL.



THE PROBLEM IS THE CURRENT,
FLOWING IN SEVERAL DIRECTIONS AT
DIFFERENT DEPTHS, TAKING THE OIL
FURTHER AWAY FROM THE SOURCE.

BY ISOLATING IT, AND
CONSOLIDATING IT, THE
CLEAN-UP WOULD BE
IMMENSELY EASIER.

BREAKING NEWS

BAJA OIL DISASTER

LIVE
EWNN

EASIER FOR SOMEONE
WHO HAPPENS TO HAVE
THE ABILITY TO CONTROL
THE VERY MOLECULES IN
THE WATER, I MEAN.

BREAKING NEWS

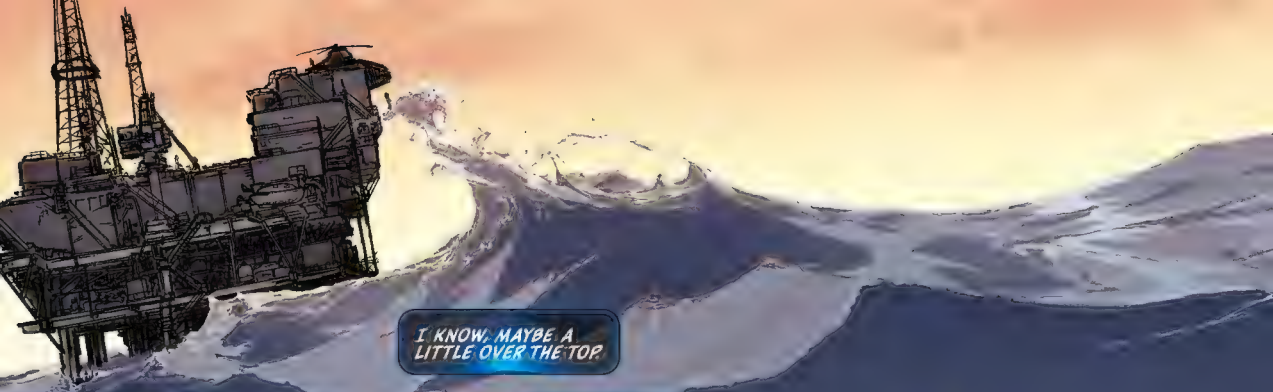
BAJA OIL DISASTER

LIVE
EWNN

THERE WE GO.
ONE NICE, TIDY
PACKAGE.

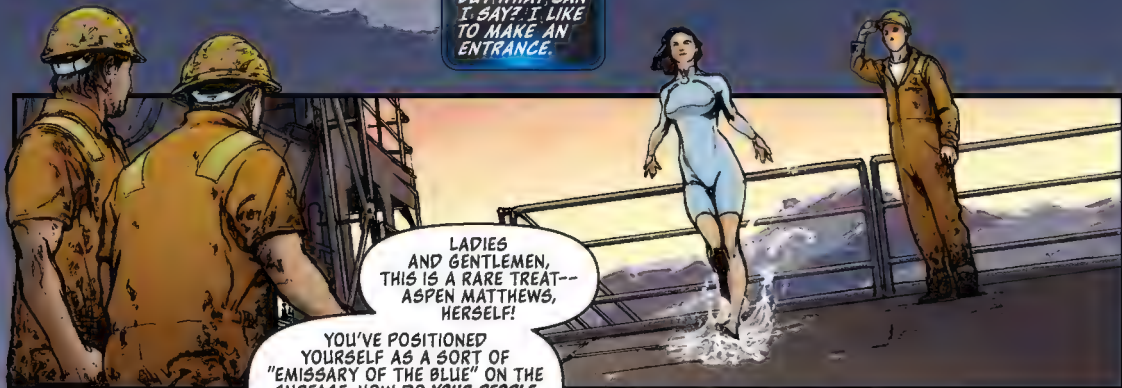
NOW, TO HAVE
A LITTLE TALK
WITH THOSE
RESPONSIBLE
FOR ALL OF
THIS.





I KNOW, MAYBE A
LITTLE OVER THE TOP.

BUT WHAT CAN
I SAY? I LIKE
TO MAKE AN
ENTRANCE.



LADIES
AND GENTLEMEN,
THIS IS A RARE TREAT--
ASPEN MATTHEWS,
HERSELF!

YOU'VE POSITIONED
YOURSELF AS A SORT OF
"EMISSARY OF THE BLUE" ON THE
SURFACE. HOW DO YOUR PEOPLE
FEEL ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL
DISASTERS SUCH AS THIS?



I DON'T SPEAK
FOR THE BLUE, AND
I CONSIDER EVERYONE
"MY PEOPLE." THANKFULLY,
FOR ALL CONCERNED,
THIS CRISIS WAS
AVERTED...

...BUT I'M
SURE THAT RAYMUNDOIL
SEES THE NEED FOR SAFEGUARDS
TO PREVENT SOMETHING LIKE
THIS FROM HAPPENING
AGAIN.



WELL, WE'LL
CERTAINLY TAKE
UNDER ADVISEMENT
ALL MANNER OF--



--YES. OF
COURSE. WE WILL
DO ANYTHING WE
CAN TO HELP THE
ENVIRONMENT.

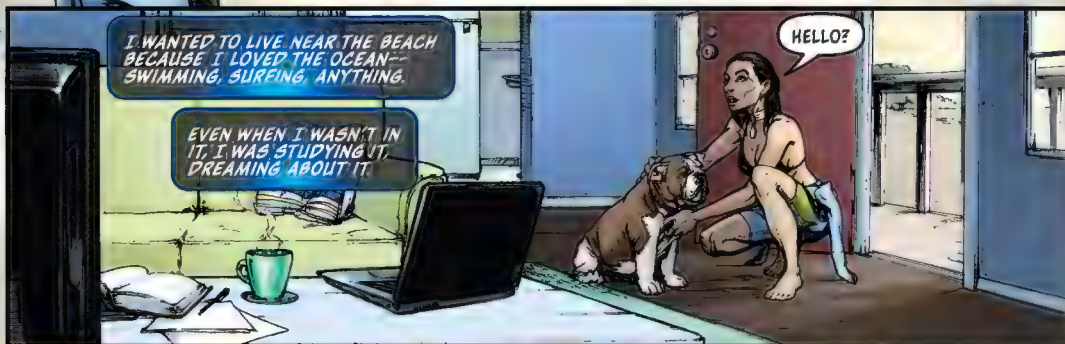


GOOD ANSWER.



HOME.

I REMEMBER
THE FIRST TIME
I SET FOOT IN
THIS PLACE.



I WANTED TO LIVE NEAR THE BEACH
BECAUSE I LOVED THE OCEAN--
SWIMMING, SURFING, ANYTHING.

EVEN WHEN I WASN'T IN
IT, I WAS STUDYING IT,
DREAMING ABOUT IT.

HELLO?



NEVER WANTED TO
BE ANYWHERE ELSE.
I BELIEVED IT WAS
IN MY BLOOD.

I DIDN'T KNOW
HOW RIGHT I WAS.



WONDER WHERE MY
ROOMMATE IS...

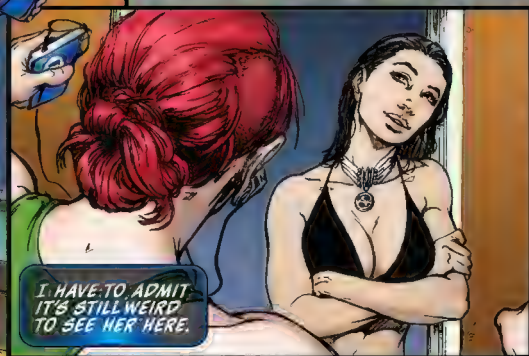


KNOCK,
KNOCK--
OH...

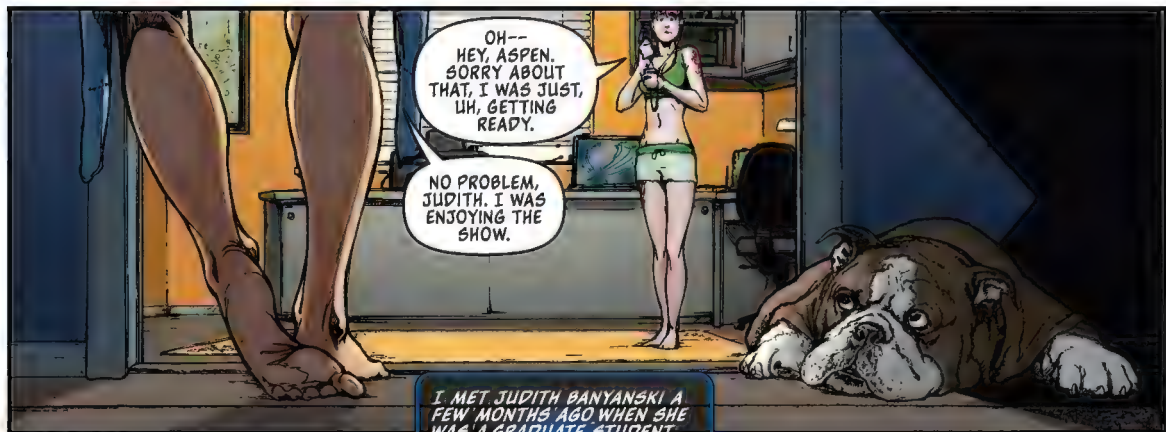
SHE'S
GOT EYES OF THE
BLUEST SKIES AS
IF THEY THOUGHT
OF RAYIYAIN...



...I'D HATE TO
LOOK INTO THOSE
EYES AND SEE AN
OUNCE OF--

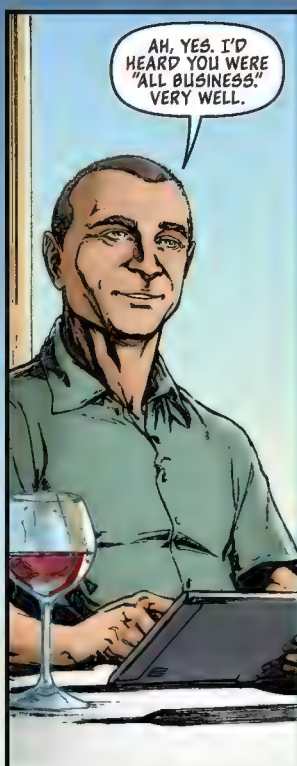
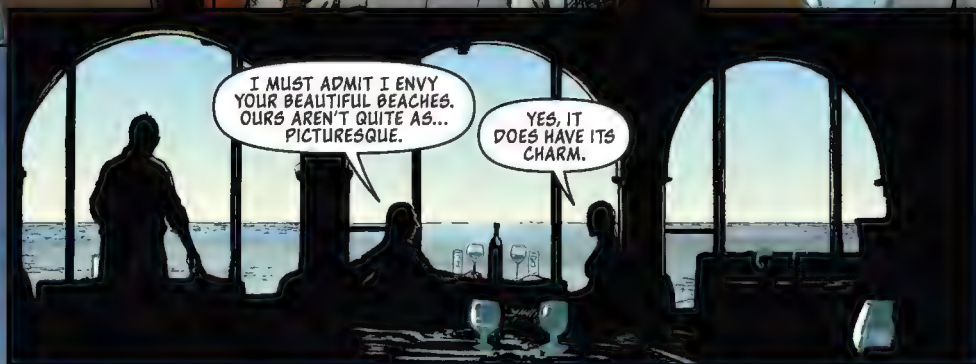


I HAVE TO ADMIT
IT'S STILL WEIRD
TO SEE HER HERE.



I MET JUDITH BANYANSKI A FEW MONTHS AGO WHEN SHE WAS A GRADUATE STUDENT WORKING FOR MY OLD FRIEND, DOCTOR COLIN WORETH.





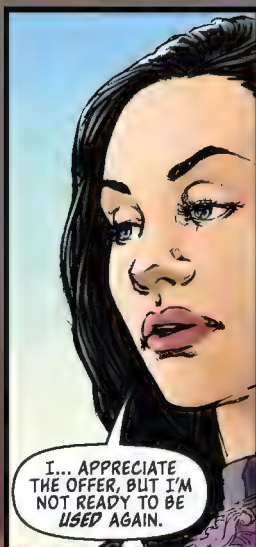


THIS IS VOLNA!

MS. MATTHEWS, I DON'T NEED TO TELL YOU HOW MUCH WE CAN DISCOVER BY ANALYZING AND EXPLOITING THE GENETICS OF THE *NEPOSTAYUSHCEYE ZVENO*-- WHAT YOU CALL "THE BLUE."



ALL WE NEED IS A PROPER, EM, FACILITATOR. YOU.



I... APPRECIATE THE OFFER, BUT I'M NOT READY TO BE USED AGAIN.



I SEE.

THOUGH I MUST SAY, YOU DIDN'T SEEM TO MIND WHEN IT WAS THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT, OR EVEN THE JAPANESE, WHO WERE THE ONES DOING THE USING.



ACTUALLY, I DID MIND.

TAKE CARE, MISTER LUZHIN, AND GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR EXPLOITATION.



LET'S GO, JUDITH.

I'M GLAD THAT WAS QUICK. THERE'S SOMETHING YOU NEED TO SEE.



IT'S ABOUT THAT THING IN BELIZE...

A DAY LATER...

IT JUST
POPPED UP
OUT OF NOWHERE.
DAMNDEST
THING.



WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP

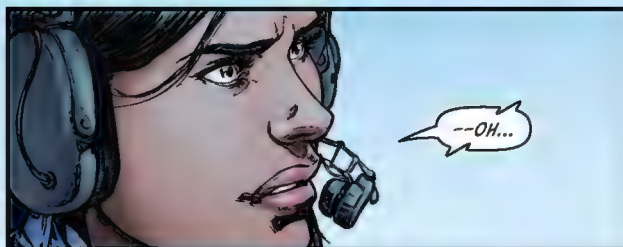


GOTTA
BE A HUNDRED
FEET HIGH AND
A HALF-MILE
AROUND.

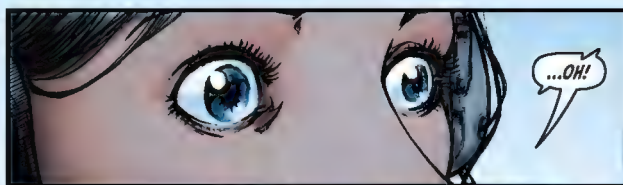
ONE OF THE
STRANGEST NATURAL
PHENOMENA I'VE
EVER SEEN.



WHAT DO
YOU MEAN?
I DON'T SEE
ANYTHING---

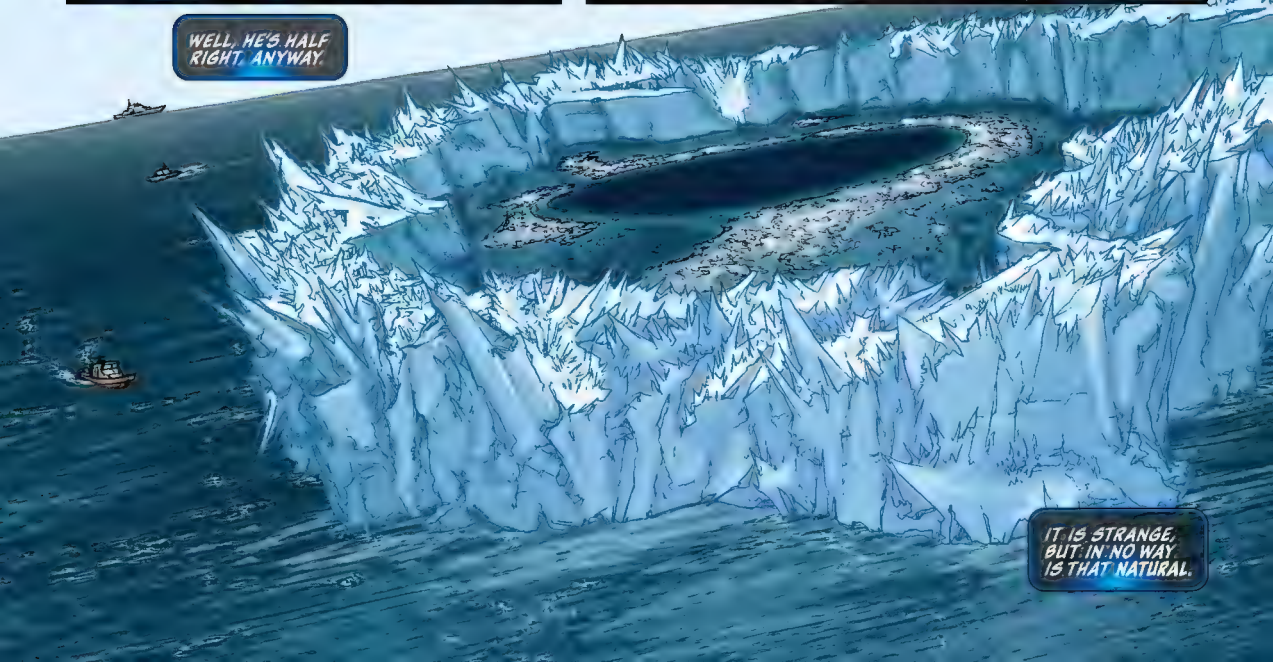


--OH...

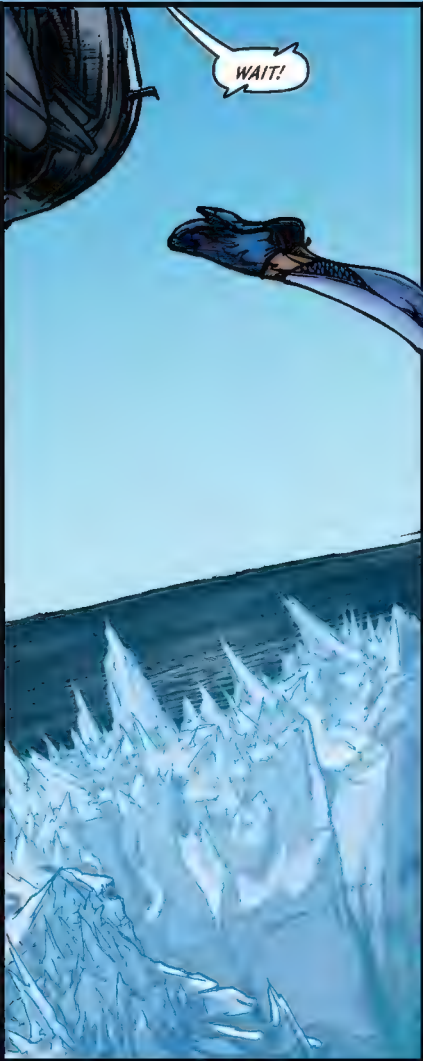


...OH!

WELL, HE'S HALF
RIGHT, ANYWAY.



IT IS STRANGE,
BUT IN NO WAY
IS THAT NATURAL.



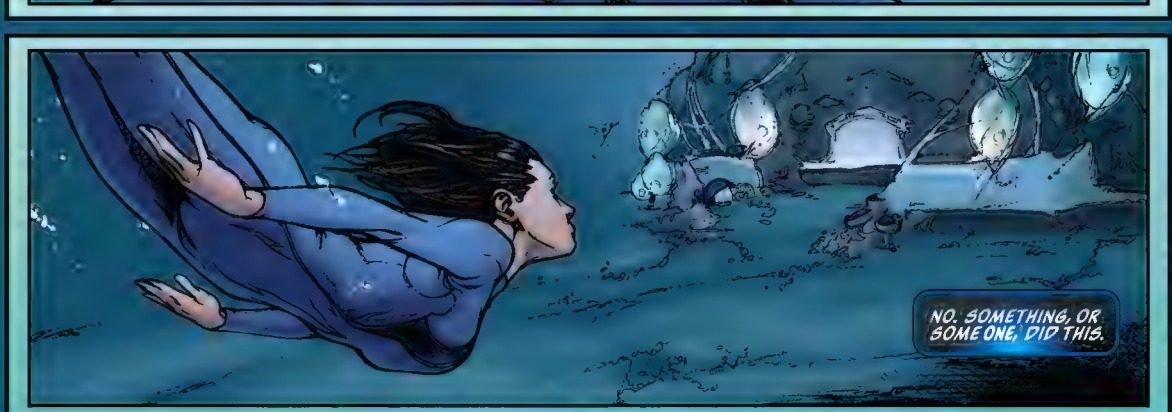


LAST TIME I WAS HERE
THE WATER WAS NEARLY
BODY TEMPERATURE.
NOW, IT'S AT LEAST 30
DEGREES COOLER.

GUESS A GIANT WALL OF
ICE WILL DO THAT-- AND
KILL THE SEA LIFE, TOO.



COULD IT BE
NATURAL?



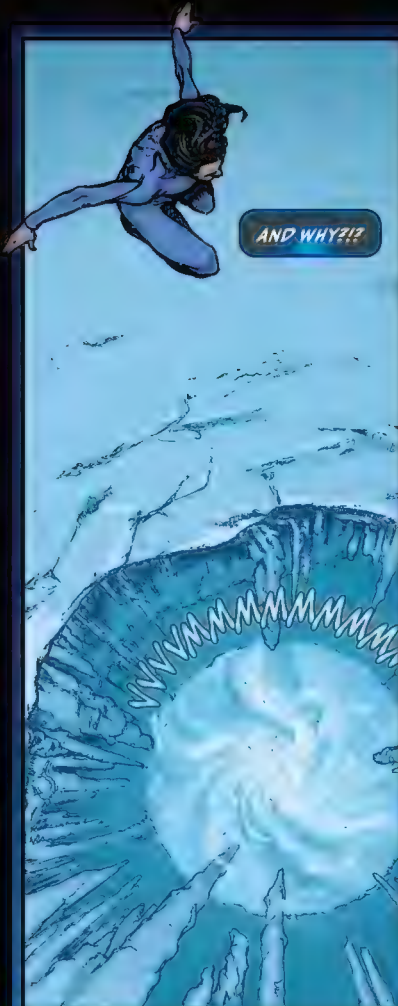
NO. SOMETHING, OR
SOMEONE, DID THIS.



I'VE SPENT A FAIR AMOUNT OF
TIME AMONG THE BLUE, SO I
CAN RECOGNIZE ONE OF THEIR
SETTLEMENTS WHEN I SEE ONE.



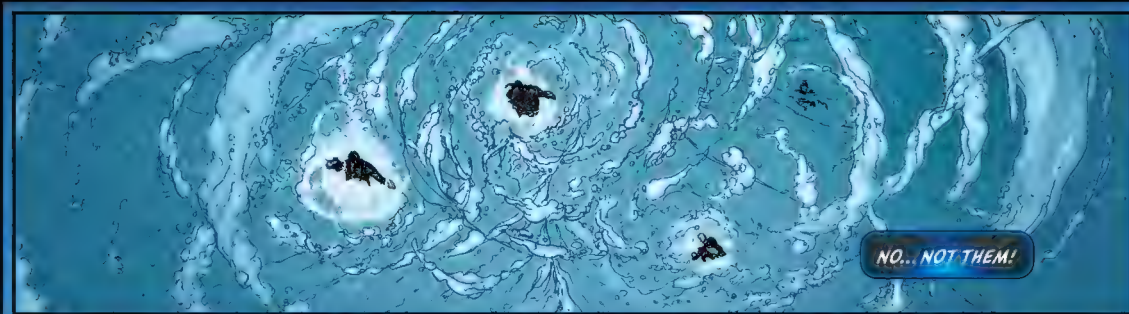
BUT WHAT COULD
THEY BE DOING HERE?



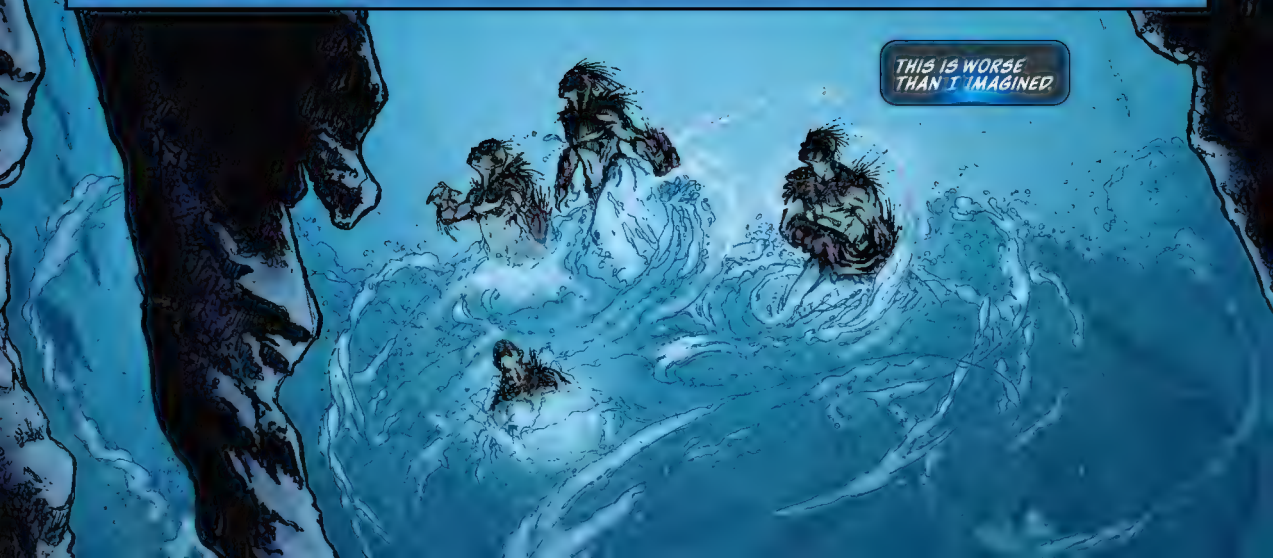
AND WHY?!



SOMETHING
TELLS ME
I'M ABOUT
TO FIND OUT.



NO... NOT THEM!



THIS IS WORSE
THAN I IMAGINED

MUCH WORSE.



TO BE CONTINUED.

MICHAEL TURNER'S FATHOM

Fathom's Original Editor
Renae Geerlings
reflects on Michael Turner,
Fathom, and its launch.

I started at Image Comics and Top Cow Productions in 1997.

I wish I could paint that world for you: a gaggle of 20 something things packed into a small office on the bustling 3rd Street Promenade in Santa Monica, and riding the wave of an industry at a giant peak. The Pager King was still a store, and cell phones were around but not everywhere. If you wanted to surf the net, you did it from a desktop and I spent hours driving pages back and forth to be scanned before there were FTP sites, and film to the airport before it all went digital. In those days, if a book sold under 50K copies it got cancelled for lack of sales, page rates were through the roof and the question wasn't 'WILL Fathom be successful?' It was 'HOW successful will it be?'

Meanwhile, we, the hapless youth, not knowing any better, took it all for granted.

I stumbled into comics. I got a temp job answering phones in a place that made funny books, and I didn't want to leave. I loved the people that worked there—their sense of creativity, and fraternity, and abandon. And, dear god, their talent.

Mike Turner had a desk in the back corner but he was one of the few that didn't sleep under his desk very often. He would walk in with a sort of polish that was a little out of place in a comic studio. He was quiet and polite with a slight southern accent, until he laughed—and that he did with abandon.

When I think of those early days and Mike, it's him, hunched over his desk in his little pool of light, creating. I used to stand next to him and watch him draw while we'd talk schedule. Sometimes he was worried to small talk while he worked on a scene that was very mindless. He asked about your family and always remembered their names and the stories you'd tell. He'd tell us about his mom, his mother and brother and father who were his favorite people in the world. But they were also a lot of reasons why he wanted to be a comic artist. He was a kid of dreamers and his dream was to be a comic artist. He was a kid of dreamers and his dream was to be a comic artist.

The first image of Aspen appeared shortly after I started. That FATHOM #1 cover was turned into the iconic poster and it was EVERYWHERE. Michael's artwork started coming in, and though I was still a newbie and working under David Wohl's tutelage, I had NO doubt this was going to be a huge hit. We all knew.

It's funny when I think back on it. What a gift that was to be there at that moment in time with all those people. But I was too young to even be excited about it. Like I said, I had just landed there.

I suppose that's the curse of age and hindsight. You wish you could stop and relive it knowing what you know now—that group of people, Mike, David Wohl, Bill O'Neil, Joe Weems, JD Smith, Peter Steigerwald, Robin Spehar, and the process of that creation. Marc Silvestri used to call it "lightning in a bottle" and we had it a lot in those early days, but Fathom was positively crackling with it.

So this is actually not just a book you hold in your hands. It's a token, an echo, of a shining moment in a lot of people's lives. We blinked and it was gone, but it's here on these pages, brighter than ever in our memories. Just like Michael Turner himself.

MICHAEL
TURNER
JON
SIBAL

ALL NEW MICHAEL TURNER'S FATHOM

Fathom's Original Editor
and All New Fathom Writer
David Wohl
reflects on Michael Turner,
Fathom, and its future!

It's hard to believe that it's been 20 years since I first met Michael.

Exactly 20 years ago, at the San Diego Comic-Con in 1993, this fresh-faced kid walked right into a portfolio review and showed us his samples. I admit, they may have been rough around the edges, but even then, we could tell there was something special about the way he drew. Maybe it was his tenacity, because just a few weeks after the convention, he was already mailing us new samples, showing his improvement in that short time. THAT was impressive, and it got him an invite to our Top Cow offices to be a BACKGROUND artist. Suffice it to say that didn't last long, because once he got to the studio, to call his rise meteoric would be an understatement. I mean, just FIVE years later, he had already shot to the top of the Wizard artist list, AND had a number one comic in Witchblade (luckily, I got to work with him on it, so I could say I was on a top book!!!). But his mark on the world of comics was just beginning. With the launch of Fathom, he showed that everything he'd done before was merely scratching the surface of his talent. Along with Peter Steigerwald on colors, Michael took his work to new heights, and showed the industry how beautiful a comic could look. Michael eventually moved on from Fathom—because that's what prolific creators do—and his work continued to improve, but I know that Fathom always had a special place in his heart. It was, and always will be, his baby—his first creation that was all his own.

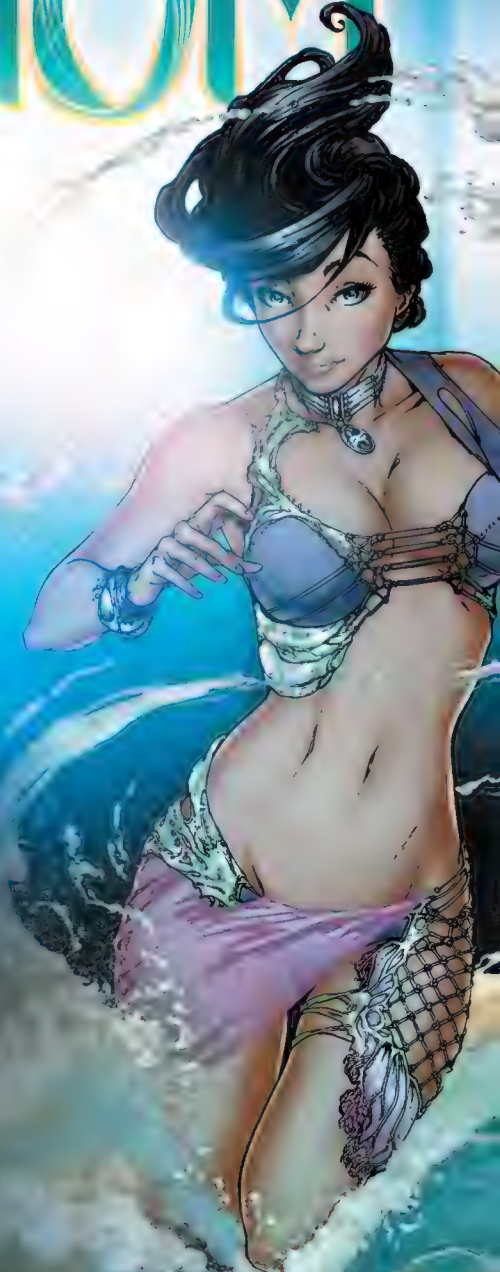
That's why it made me so happy when Frank and the guys at Aspen asked me if I'd like to write the new volume. I was excited, and nervous. I still am. But they made it a little easier for me, because they blessed the process with an incredible art team in Alex Konat and Beth Sotelo. Alex came up pretty much the same way Michael did, by showing his work at conventions and continuing to work harder and harder, making great strides in his drawing ability on a regular basis. And with Beth, he found someone who complements his pencils and turns each page into a thing of beauty. Michael would certainly be proud. And so am I, to be involved in such a special book, and to have known such a special man. Thank you, Michael, and thanks to Aspen for this great opportunity.



**ALL NEW
FATHOM**
On Sale Now!



Let the Adventure Begin!



#2
COVER A

10
FEB
10

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY, FATHOM—15 YEARS OF BLUE!

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A L L N E W
MICHAEL TURNER'S
FATHOM



#210
COVER B

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY, FATHOM — 15 YEARS OF BLUE!

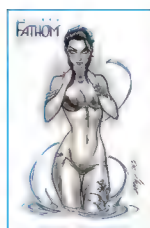
david WOHL • alex KONAT • beth SOTELO • josh REED



ALL NEW
MICHAEL TURNER'S

FATHOM





DAVID WOHL &
FRANK MASTROMAURO

DAVID WOHL &
FRANK MASTROMAURO

DAVID WOHL &
FRANK MASTROMAURO

DAVID WOHL &
FRANK MASTROMAURO
& PETER STEIGERWALT

DAVID WOHL &
FRANK MASTROMAURO
plot

DAVID WOHL
script

ALEX KONAT
pencils

MARK ROSLAN
digital inks

BETH SOTELO
color

JOSH REED
lettering



FATHOM

THE SIDE OF THE MOTHER

THE SIDE OF THE MOTHER has taken control

THE FATHOM CREATED BY MICHAEL TURNER
& CO-CREATED BY MICHAEL TURNER AND PETER STEIGERWALT

Editors: VINCE HERNANDEZ, FRANK MASTROMAURO Design and Production: MARK ROSLAN, PETER STEIGERWALT, JOSH REED Lettering font designed by: DREAMER DESIGN

FOR ASPEN:

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Production Assistant: CHAZ RIGGS, JOHN ERCEK AspenStore.com: CHRIS RUPP Director of Design and Production: MARK ROSLAN

MICHAEL TURNER'S FATHOM™ Vol. 5 Issue 2

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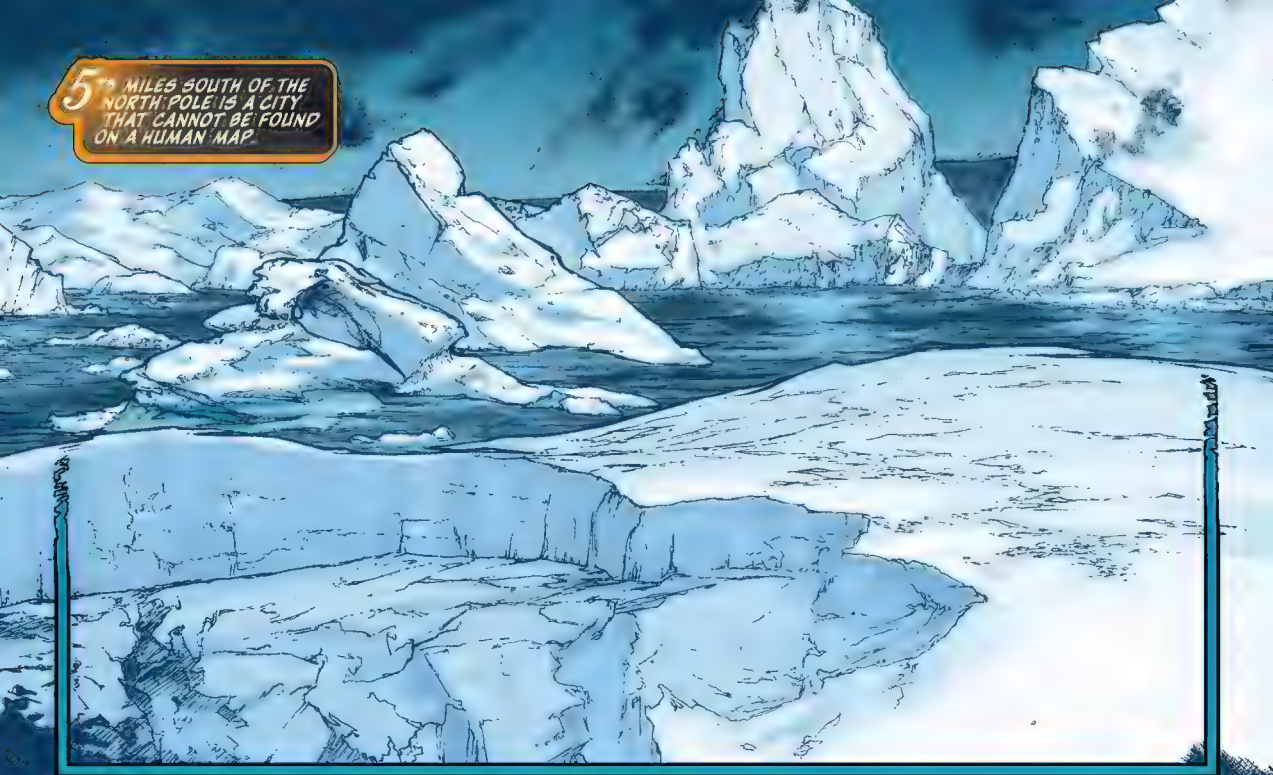
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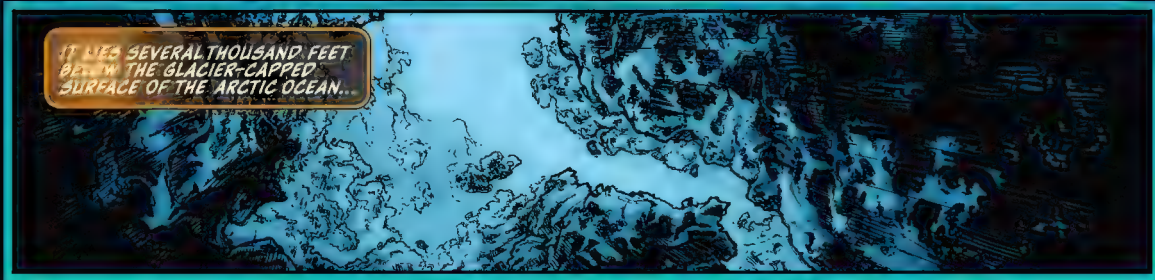
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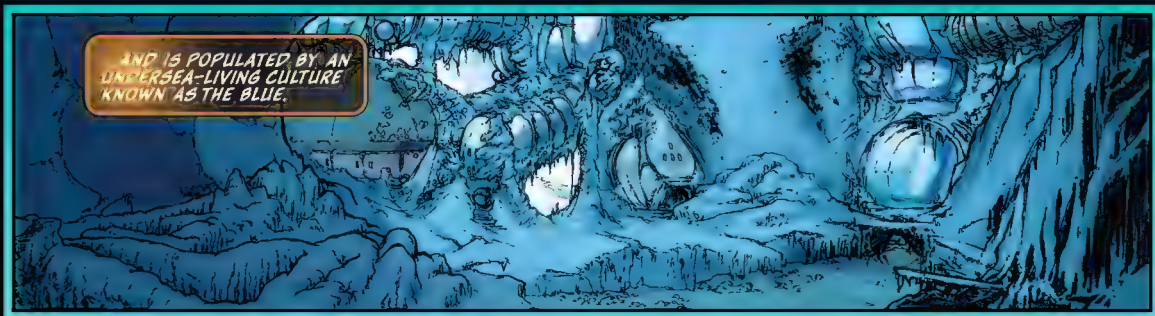
5 MILES SOUTH OF THE
NORTH POLE IS A CITY
THAT CANNOT BE FOUND
ON A HUMAN MAP.



IT LIES SEVERAL THOUSAND FEET
BELOW THE GLACIER-CAPPED
SURFACE OF THE ARCTIC OCEAN...

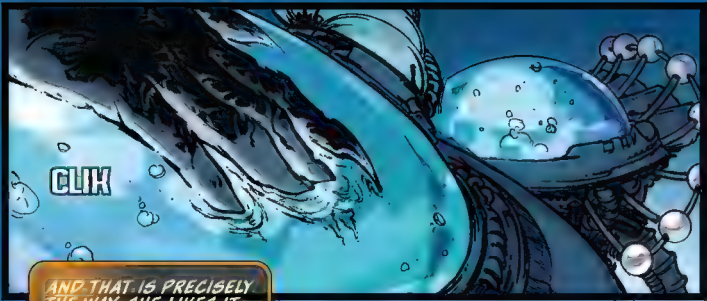


AND IS POPULATED BY AN
UNDERSEA-LIVING CULTURE
KNOWN AS THE BLUE.



BUT EVEN MOST
BLUE ARE UNAWARE
OF THIS CITY, AND
ITS RECLUSIVE,
ENIGMATIC RULER.





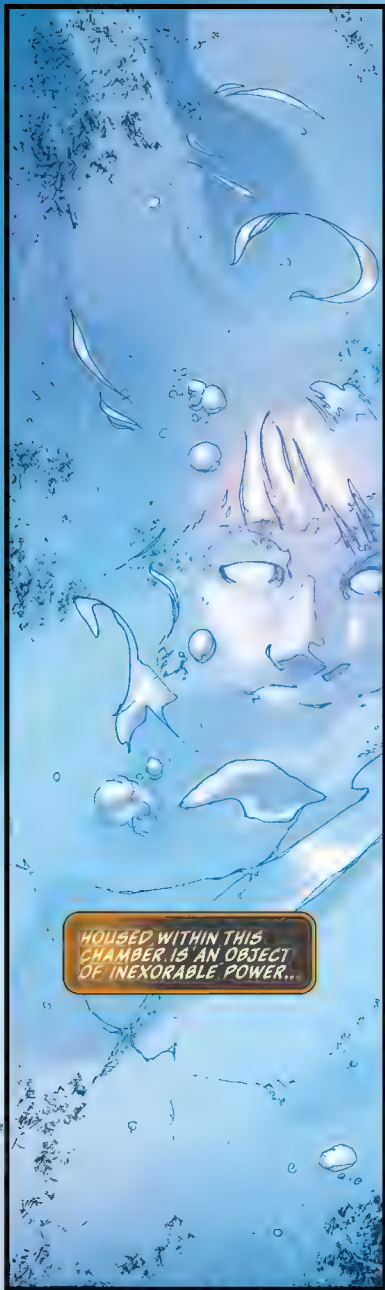
CLIK

AND THAT IS PRECISELY
THE WAY SHE LIKES IT.

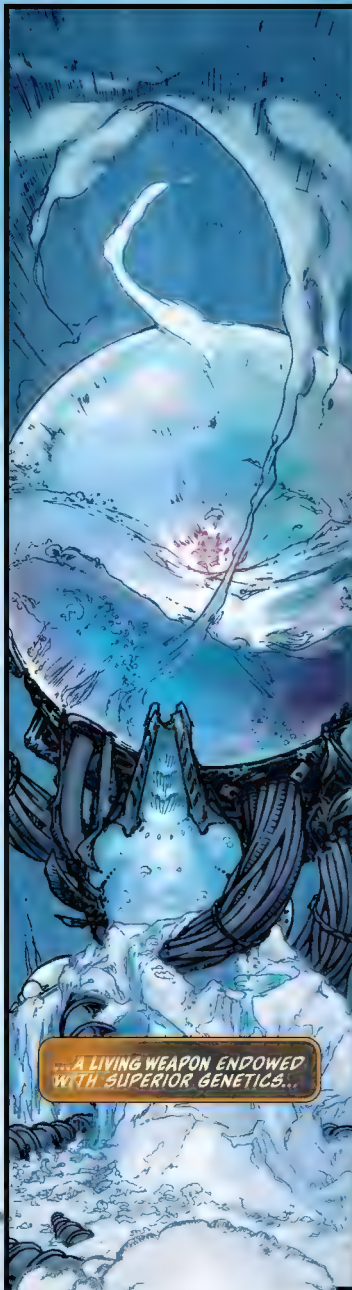


FREE FROM THE PRYING EYES
OF OTHERS, SHE IS ABLE TO
EMBARK ON HER MOST
AMBITIOUS UNDERTAKING.

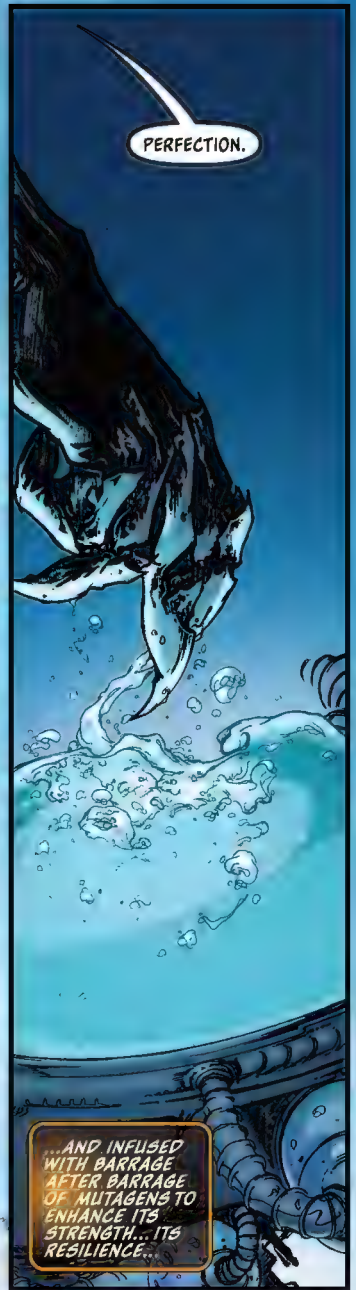
VEEEOOOOORRRSSHHHHH



HOUSED WITHIN THIS
CHAMBER IS AN OBJECT
OF INEXORABLE POWER...



...A LIVING WEAPON ENDOWED
WITH SUPERIOR GENETICS...

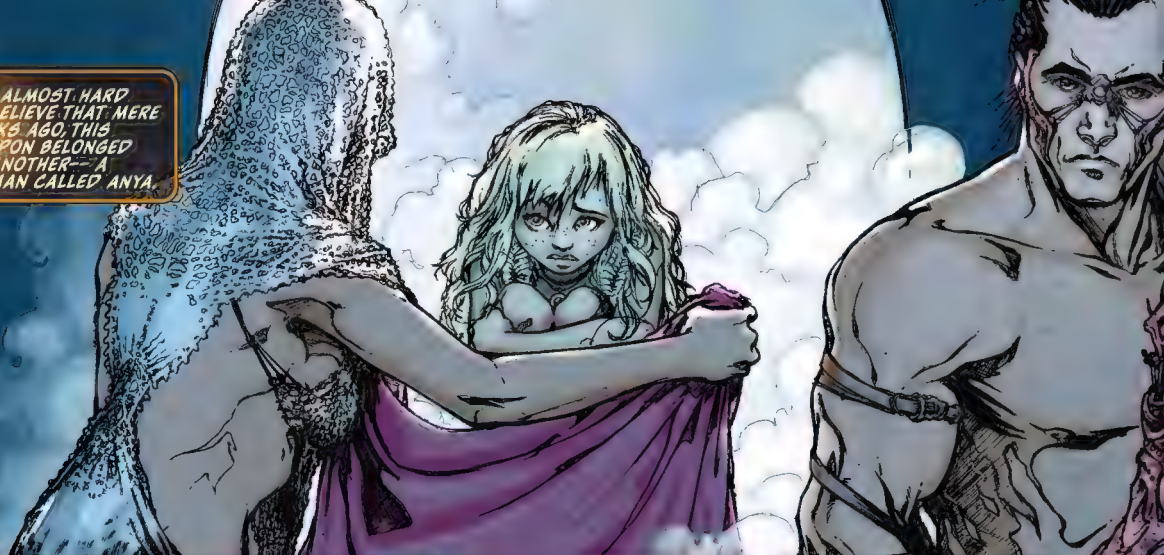


PERFECTION.

...AND INFUSED
WITH BARRAGE
AFTER BARRAGE
OF MUTAGENS TO
ENHANCE ITS
STRENGTH... ITS
RESILIENCE...

...ITS PURE POWER.

IT'S ALMOST HARD
TO BELIEVE THAT MERE
WEEKS AGO, THIS
WEAPON BELONGED
TO ANOTHER-- A
WOMAN CALLED ANYA.

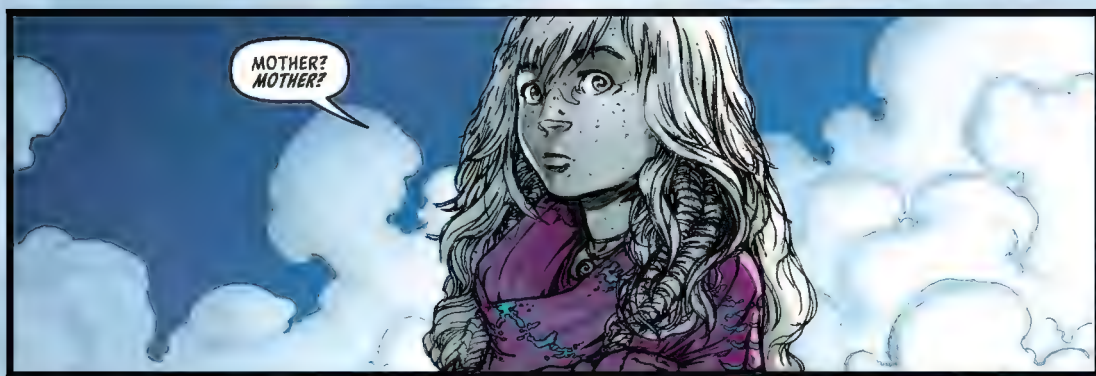


IT WAS AN
INFANT, THEN.
WEAK AND
HELPLESS.

NOW, IT HAS A
NEW HOME. A
NEW DESTINY.



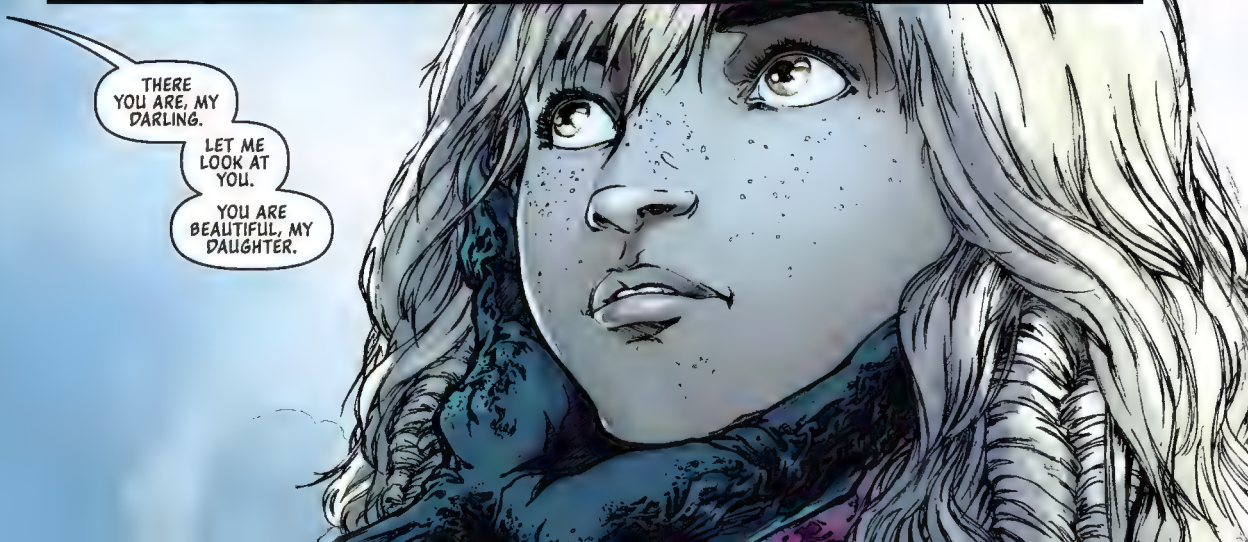
MOTHER?
MOTHER?



THERE
YOU ARE, MY
DARLING.

LET ME
LOOK AT
YOU.

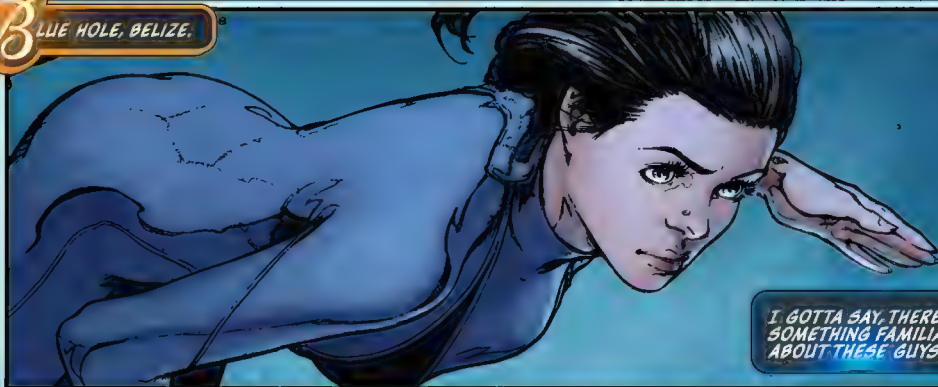
YOU ARE
BEAUTIFUL, MY
DAUGHTER.





SOON,
THE WORLD WILL
BE YOURS.

B BLUE HOLE, BELIZE.



I GOTTA SAY, THERE'S
SOMETHING FAMILIAR
ABOUT THESE GUYS...

...AND IT'S NOT JUST
THE FACT THAT THEY'RE
TRYING TO KILL ME.



IT'S THEIR LOOK...
THEIR ARMOR.

BUT FIRST
THINGS FIRST...

...GOTTA TRY
TO STAY ALIVE.

THEY'RE NOT JUST
TRYING TO SCARE
ME WITH THOSE
ICE SPEARS...

...BUT THEY CAN'T TOUCH ME
IF MY BODY IS PURE WATER!

WHO ARE
THESE GUYS?

AND WHY ARE THEY
BUILDING GIANT
WALLS OF ICE IN THE
ATLANTIC OCEAN?

WELL, I'VE SEEN
WHAT THEY CAN DO...

...NOW IT'S
MY TURN.

VARRROOOSSSSHHHH

WHOOOSSHHKKKKKKKK

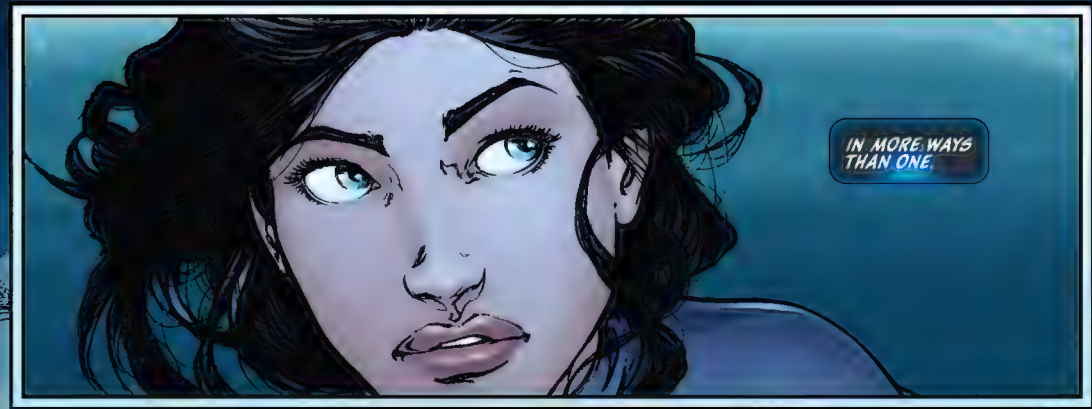
THAT WASN'T
SO HARD.

KRKKLLLL

KKKKSSSHHHKKKKKK

NO... WAY.

CLEARLY, I
UNDERESTIMATED
THESE GUYS.



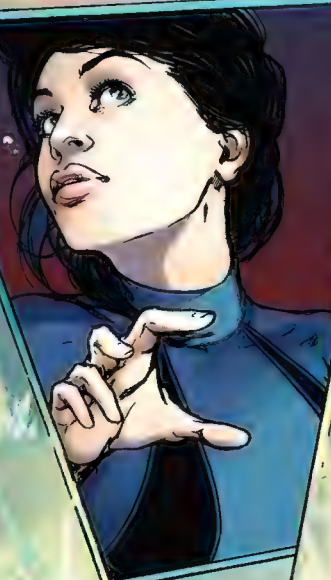
IN MORE WAYS
THAN ONE.



THVAKOOOKKSSHHH



KKSSHHHKKKK



KRRSSHHHKKLLL

THOSE THINGS THEY FIRED
WEREN'T JUST SPEARS-- THEY
WERE LIKE ICY DEPTH CHARGES.

DAMMIT--
CAN'T FOCUS--

NEED... TO JUST...

...CONCENTRATE.

THWOOOSSSHHH

THUKKSHHH



YES!!!

VNNHHHHHHH

GOT THEIR
ATTENTION
NOW...



...BUT HE'S NOT
ATTACKING
ANYMORE...



...HE'S BUILDING A
WALL TO PROTECT
THE REST AS THEY
MAKE THEIR ESCAPE.

WELL... NOT ON
MY WATCH.



THAKSSHHHH



NOW WHERE
ARE--???

GONE.



NO WAY THEY COULD GET
AWAY THAT QUICKLY UNLESS
THEY HAD... ASSISTANCE.

THIS IS BIGGER
THAN I'D FEARED.

The NEXT DAY.

THOSE MEN-- THAT
ARMOR-- I REMEMBER
ALL TOO CLEARLY NOW.

IT WAS A LONG TIME AGO,
WHEN I HAD BARELY ANY
IDEA OF WHO I WAS OR
WHERE I CAME FROM.

THEY ATTACKED ME...
KIDNAPPED ME... TORTURED
ME... AND COMMITTED
TERRIBLE ACTS TO THOSE I
CARED FOR DEEPLY.*

AND IF THEY'VE
RETURNED, THERE
ARE THOSE WHO
NEED TO KNOW.

*SEE FATHOM DEFINITIVE
EDITION FOR MORE.



WHETHER I LIKE IT OR
NOT, THERE'S ONLY ONE
PLACE THAT I CAN GO
TO DELIVER THIS NEWS...



...MURIA.



THE FIRST TIME I CAME HERE,
I THOUGHT IT WAS THE MOST
BEAUTIFUL AND UNBELIEVABLE
SIGHT IN THE WORLD.

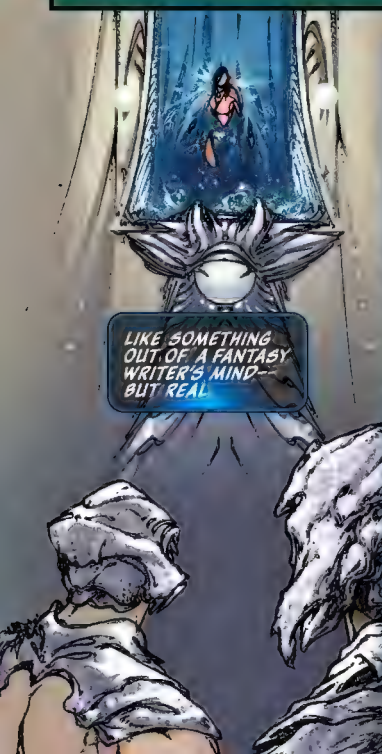


STILL DO,
TRUTH BE
TOLD.

THE CAPITAL CITY
OF THE BLUE.



A SHINING, SEEMINGLY
SCI-FI METROPOLIS MILES
BENEATH THE SURFACE.



LIKE SOMETHING
OUT OF A FANTASY
WRITER'S MIND--
BUT REAL.



AND I'M ONE
OF THEM...



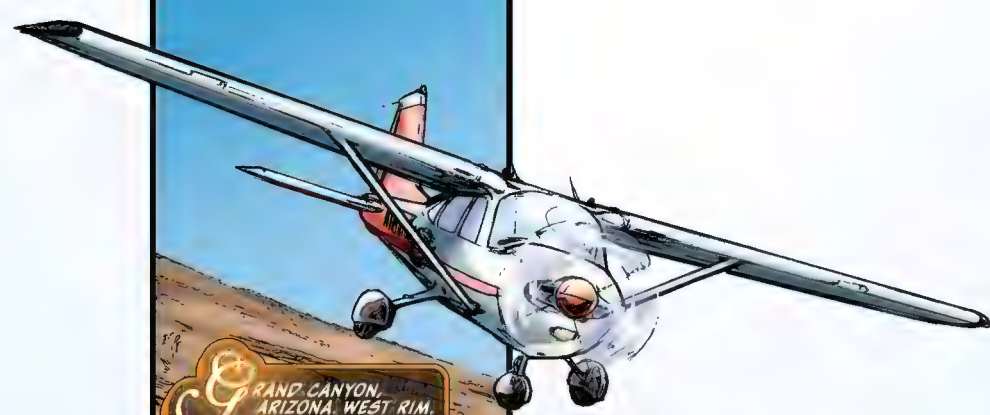
...WHETHER I LIKE
TO ADMIT IT OR NOT.





ISN'T
THAT RIGHT,
ASPEN?

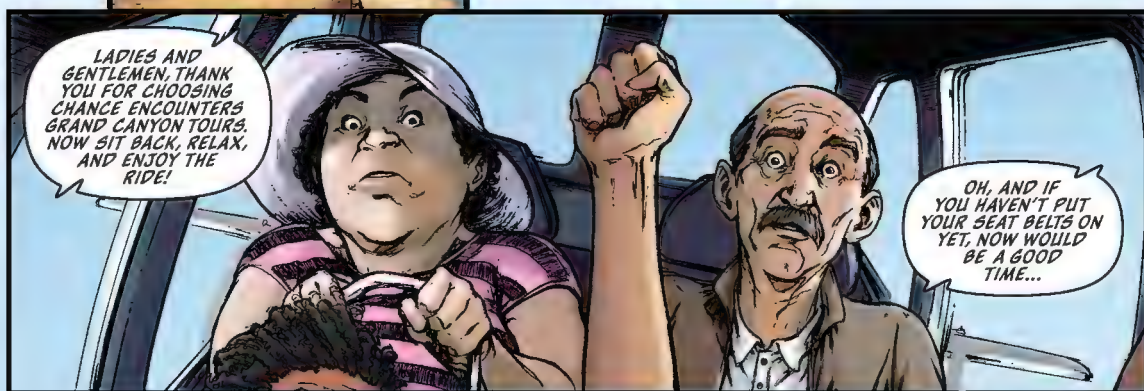
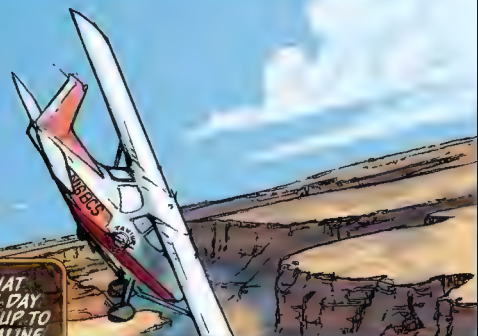
KILLIAN!



GRAND CANYON,
ARIZONA. WEST RIM.

HIS NAME IS CHANCE
CALLOWAY. AT ONE TIME
HE WAS ONE OF THE
HOTTEST TEST PILOTS
IN THE U.S. NAVY.

SUFFICE IT TO SAY THAT
THERE ARE VERY FEW DAY
JOBS THAT CAN LIVE UP TO
THAT FOR AN ADRENALINE
JUNKIE LIKE CHANCE.



LADIES AND
GENTLEMEN, THANK
YOU FOR CHOOSING
CHANCE ENCOUNTERS
GRAND CANYON TOURS.
NOW SIT BACK, RELAX,
AND ENJOY THE
RIDE!

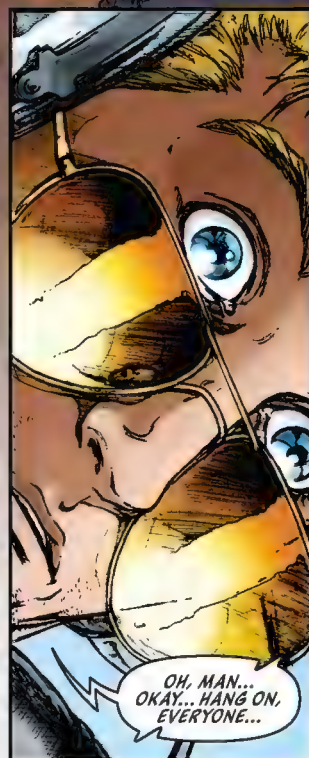
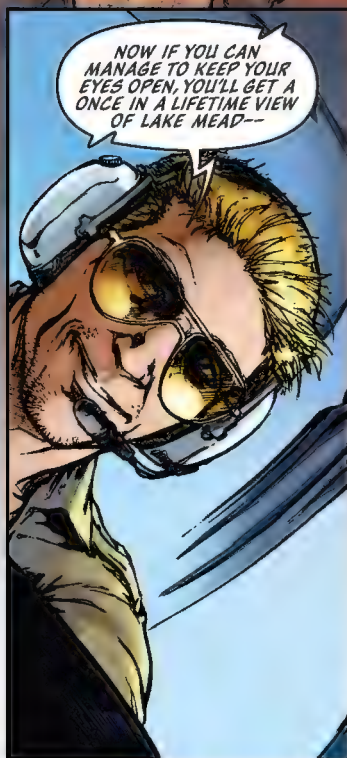
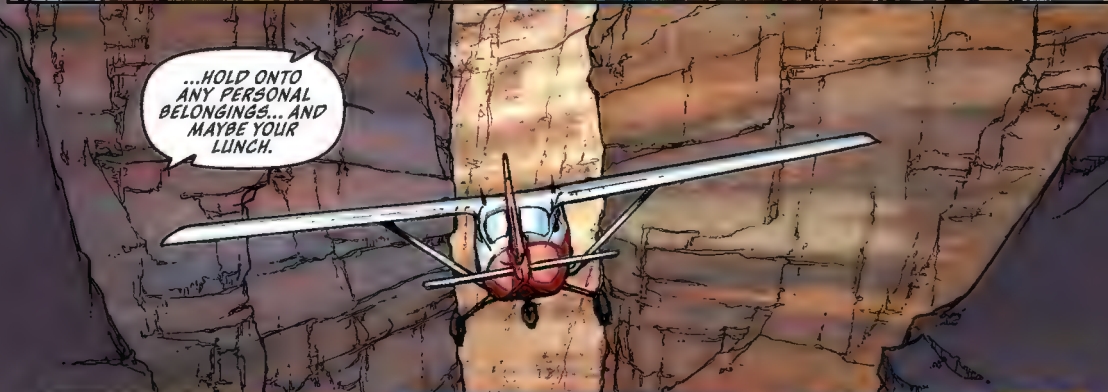
OH, AND IF
YOU HAVEN'T PUT
YOUR SEAT BELTS ON
YET, NOW WOULD
BE A GOOD
TIME...



WOOOOHOOOO!!!!

YESS!!

STILL, HE
MAKES DO.



A biplane is shown flying through a narrow canyon. The canyon walls are dark and rocky, with some snow patches. In the background, there are jagged, snow-covered mountains under a light blue sky. The biplane is a two-engine aircraft with a red and white color scheme. It is flying towards the viewer, slightly angled to the right. A speech bubble is coming from the cockpit area.

...THINGS
ARE ABOUT TO
GET A LITTLE...
ROUGH.

*To BE
CONTINUED...*

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY, FATHOM — 15 YEARS OF BLUE!

#3
COVER A

10
FEB
10

david WOHL • alex KONAT • beth SOTELO • josh REED



A L L N E W
MICHAEL TURNER'S

FATHOM



alex
konat
sotelo

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#3
COVER B

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ALL NEW
MICHAEL TURNER'S

FEATHOM





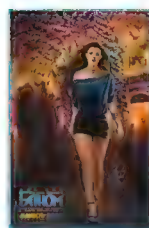
BY ALEX KONAT
AND BETH SOTELO



BY ERIC BASALDUA
AND PETER STEIGERWALD



SKETCH EDITED BY ERIC BASALDUA



BY JOSH REED

DAVID WOHL &
FRANK MASTROMAURO

plot

DAVID WOHL

script

ALEX KONAT

pencil

MARK ROSLAN

digital inks

BETH SOTELO
& JOHN STARR

color

JOSH REED

lettering



FATHOM

STRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND



FATHOM CREATED BY MICHAEL TURNER
THE BLACK CO-CREATED BY MICHAEL TURNER AND PETER STEIGERWALD

Editors: VINCE HERNANDEZ, FRANK MASTROMAURO Design and Production: MARK ROSLAN, PETER STEIGERWALD, JOSH REED Lettering font designed by: DREAMER DESIGN

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1,000 NAUTICAL MILES
NORTHEAST OF THE
BLUE CAPITAL CITY
OF MURIA, LIES THE
VILLAGE OF ANDORIA...

FOUNDED ONLY RECENTLY, WITH A POPULATION IN THE
HUNDRETS, ANDORIA IS ONE OF SEVERAL NEW BLUE
CITIES RECENTLY BUILT BENEATH THE EARTH'S OCEANS...



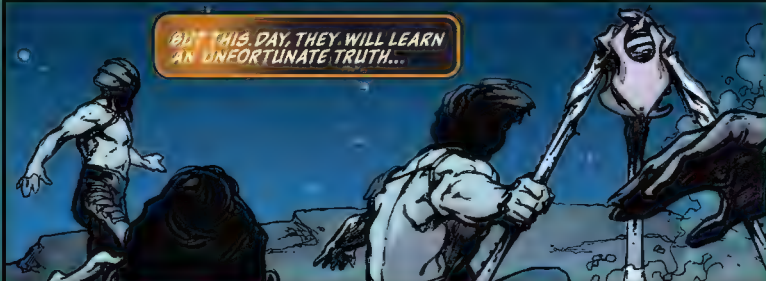
POPULATED BY THOSE WHO BELIEVE
THAT TOO MANY OF THE BLUE
HAVE GROWN TOO FAMILIAR WITH THEIR
SURFACE-DWELLING COUSINS.



SACRIFICING THE COMFORTS
OF THE LARGER CITIES, THESE
PEOPLE WOULD PREFER TO
LIVE A MORE SIMPLE LIFE,
FREE FROM CONTACT WITH
THOSE ABOVE.



BUT THIS DAY, THEY WILL LEARN
AN UNFORTUNATE TRUTH...



THAT EVEN AMONG
THEIR OWN KIND, THERE
ARE THOSE WHO CAN
CAUSE THEM HARM.



GREAT HARM.



AND SOMETIMES,
EVEN WHEN YOU
THINK YOU'VE GONE
OUT OF YOUR WAY
TO SUCCESSFULLY
AVOID DANGER...



IT HAS A WAY
OF FINDING YOU.

MURIA.

I SEE
YOU'VE DONE WELL
FOR YOURSELF,
KILLIAN.

I KNOW...
DUTY CALLS.

TO BE HONEST,
ASPEN, I WASN'T
QUITE SURE I WANTED
COMMAND OF THE ELITE
GUARD, BUT SIPHON
INSISTED.

I MUST ADMIT IT'S STRANGE
TO SEE KILLIAN LIKE THIS. SO
CALM AND RESERVED.

BUT HIS EYES...
THEY SMOLDER.

HOW ARE YOU
REALLY DOING, KILLIAN?
AND ANYA?

YOU TWO HAVE
BEEN THROUGH SO MUCH,
WITH ANIKA--

MY CHILD IS DEAD,
ASPEN, AND NOTHING
CAN CHANGE THAT.

MY CONCERN
NOW IS FOR MURIA
AND MY PEOPLE. I
MUST KEEP THEM
SAFE.

NOW,
IF YOU'LL COME
THIS WAY, SIPHON
IS EXPECTING YOU.

THAT'S GOING TO TAKE
SOME GETTING USED TO
AS WELL... KILLIAN TAKING
ORDERS FROM SIPHON.

SIPHON HAS BEEN THE LEADER
OF THE COUNCIL FOR SOME
TIME NOW, AND FROM WHAT I
HEAR, HE'S BEEN A GOOD ONE.

BUT KILLIAN... WELL HE TENDS
TO MARCH TO THE BEAT OF
HIS OWN DRUM. HE'S NEVER
BEEN TOO FOND OF TAKING
ORDERS, ESPECIALLY FROM
THOSE WHO ARE SYMPATHETIC
TO HUMANS-- LIKE SIPHON...

...AND ME.



IS THE EXPANSION PROCEEDING AS PLANNED, ALCER?

YES, OF COURSE, SIR, BUT SOME OF THE COUNCIL BELIEVES--

WE CAN DISCUSS IT AT THE NEXT MEETING OF THE HALL. YOU MAY GO.

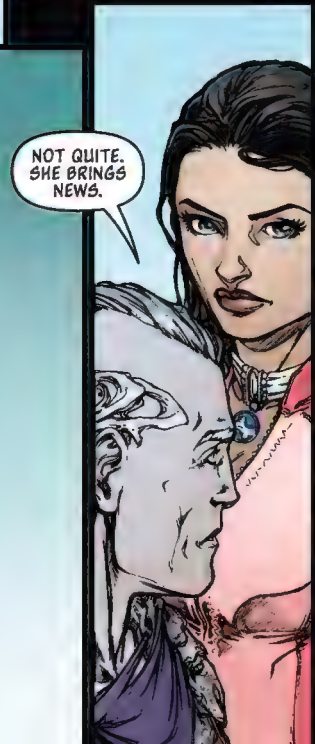
AS YOU WISH, SIR...

SIPHON, WE HAVE A VISITOR.



ASPEN! NOW *THIS* IS A PLEASANT SURPRISE!

WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE? HAVE YOU TAKEN US UP ON OUR OFFER TO REMAIN WITH THE BLUE?



NOT QUITE. SHE BRINGS NEWS.



I WISH I COULD COME UNDER MORE... SOCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES.

YOU SEE, SOMETHING HAS HAPPENED-- IN BELIZE. THERE WAS SOME KIND OF WALL OF ICE, THOUSANDS OF FEET HIGH AND EVEN WIDER ACROSS.



I ENCOUNTERED THE MEN RESPONSIBLE AND... WELL, THEY LOOKED LIKE VANA'S SOLDIERS.

VANA? BUT WHAT WOULD HER MEN BE DOING ALL THE WAY DOWN IN THE TROPICS?





GRAND CANYON,
ARIZONA.

FOR CHANCE CALLOWAY,
THE THREAT OF DANGER
IS NOTHING NEW.



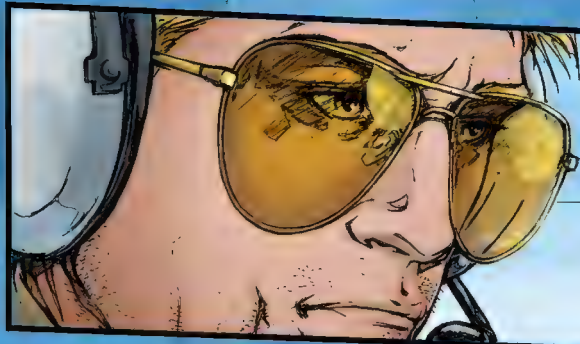
OHMYGODOHMYGOD
OHMYGOD!

A FORMER TEST PILOT
FOR THE NAVY, CHANCE
HAS FLOWN AIRCRAFT AT
SOME OF THE FASTEST
TIMES EVER RECORDED..

HE'S BEEN ON MISSIONS IN
HAZARDOUS ENVIRONMENTS AND
BOMBARDED BY ENEMY FIRE..

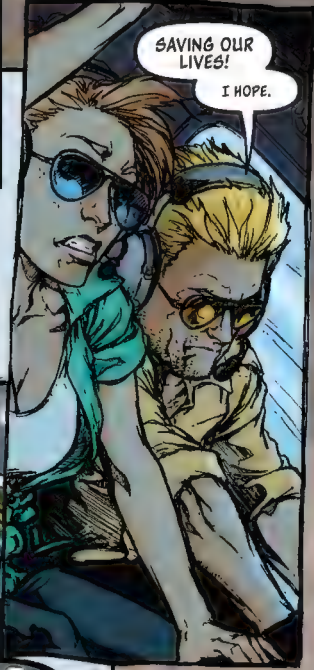
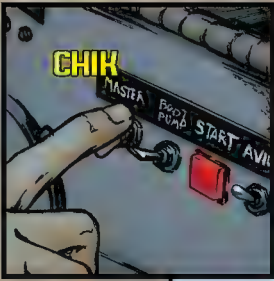


BUT HE'S NEVER SEEN
ANYTHING LIKE THIS.



EVERYBODY...
HOLD ON! I GOTTA
CUT THE ENGINE.

WHAT?
CHANCE, WHAT ARE
YOU DOING?





...NOW!!!
TURN IT BACK
ON!



DO IT!

I'M TRYING!

CLIK CLIK CLIK



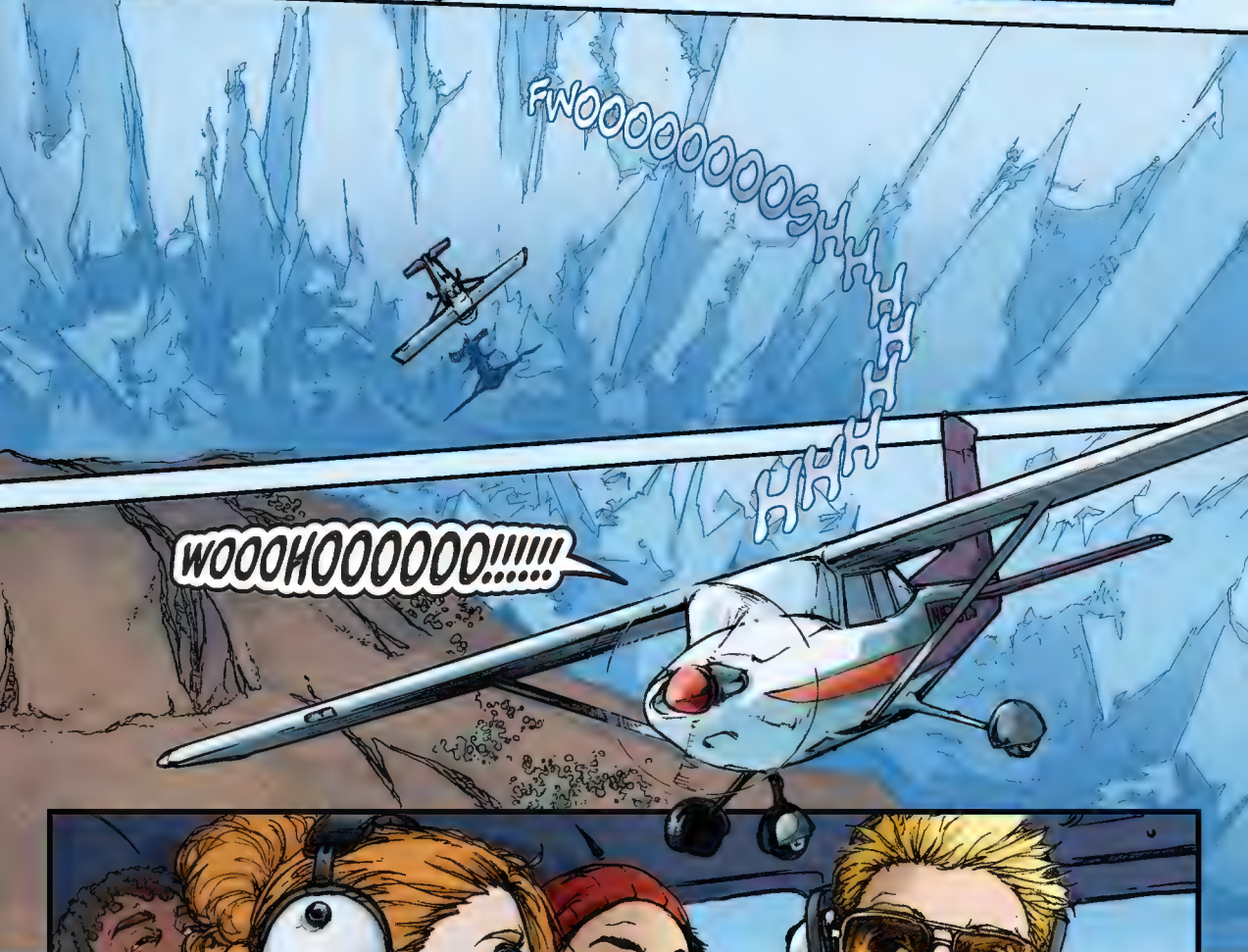
WHAT'S
PLAN B?



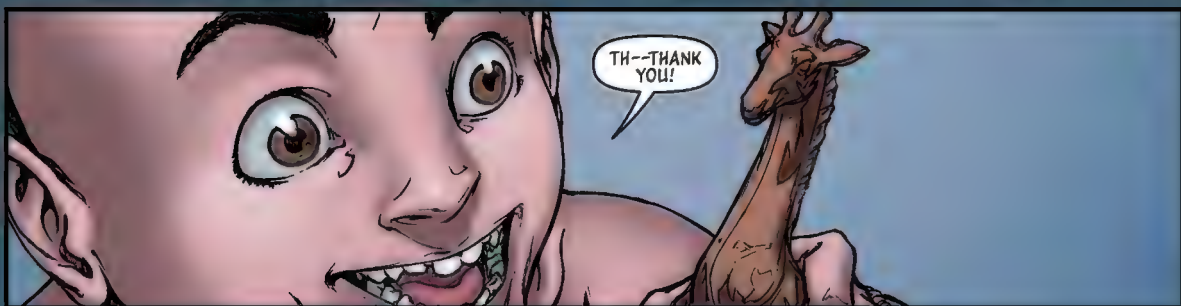
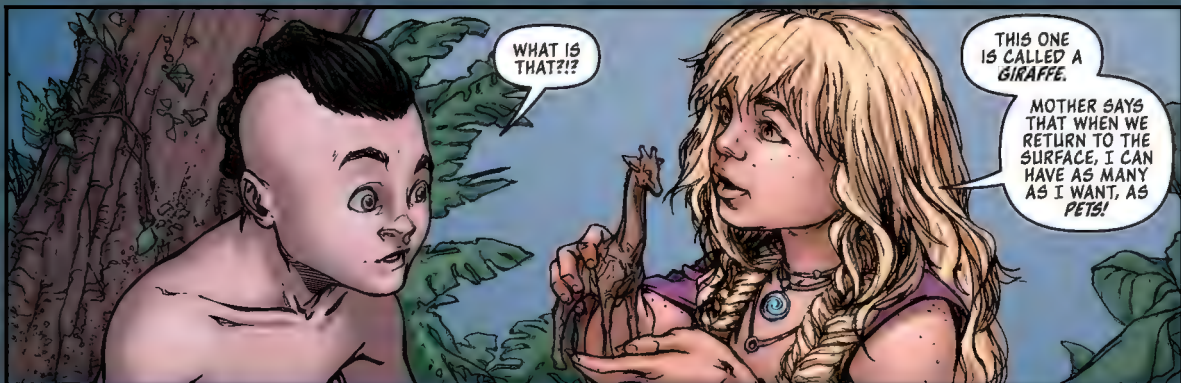
CLIK CLIK

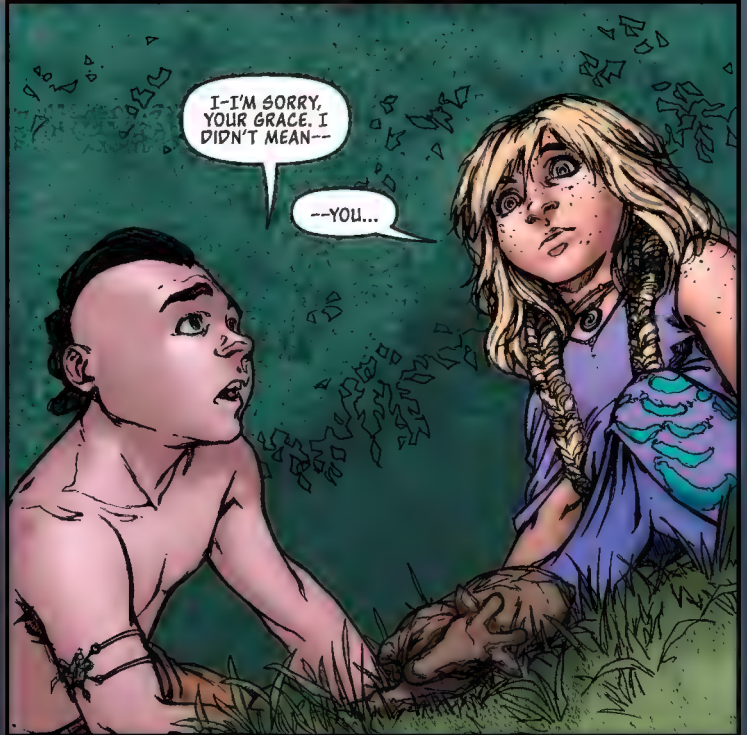
CLIK CLIK

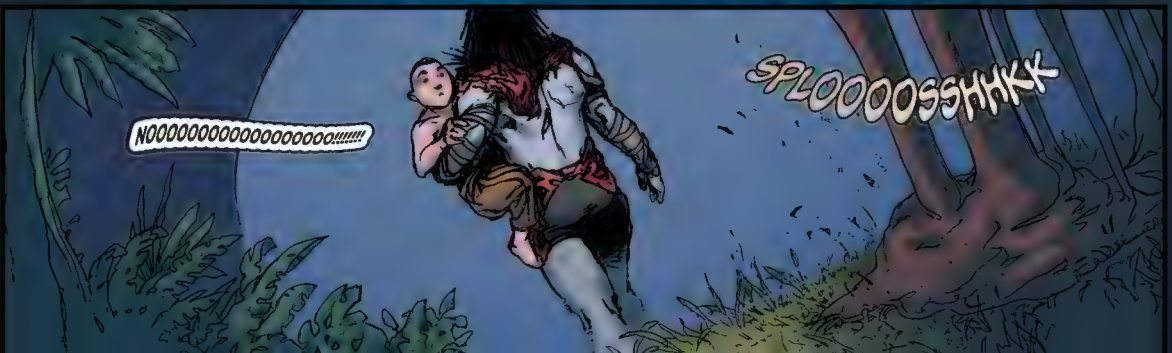
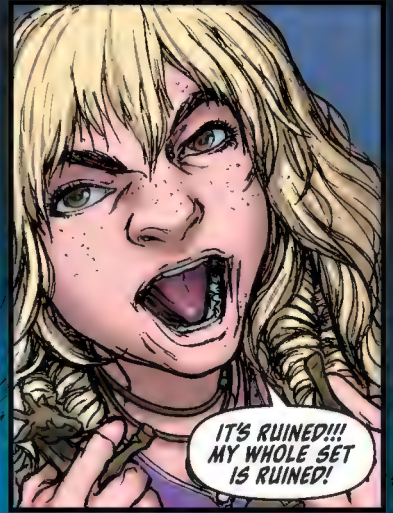
C'MON,
BABY, I KNOW
YOU CAN DO
THIS!











OKAY, THIS REALLY WASN'T WHAT I HAD IN MIND WHEN I DECIDED TO PAY THEM A VISIT.

I WAS GONNA TELL THEM WHAT I KNEW, LIMITED AS IT WAS, AND BE ON MY WAY.

BUT I'M THE ONLY WITNESS TO WHAT HAPPENED IN BELIZE, AND IF THE SAME THING HAS HAPPENED AGAIN, I WANT TO SEE IT FOR MYSELF.

I WAS HOPING IT WOULD GIVE ME A CHANCE TO FIND OUT A LITTLE MORE OF WHAT'S UP BETWEEN KILLIAN AND ANYA, TOO.

FROM WHAT LITTLE I COULD GET FROM SIPHON, THEY HAVEN'T SPOKEN AT ALL SINCE THEIR LOSS.

I KNOW THAT WOULD BE DEVASTATING TO ANYONE, BUT KILLIAN'S NEVER BEEN ONE TO HIDE HIS EMOTIONS. HE CAN'T JUST KEEP THEM BOTTLED UP INSIDE—

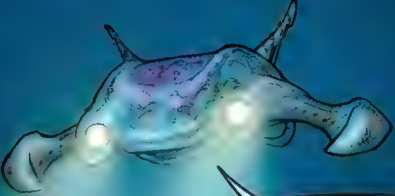
WE'RE HERE!

OH, MY GOD.



THIS WAS A THRIVING CITY... WITH PEOPLE JUST GOING ABOUT THEIR BUSINESS, NEEDLESS OF WHAT WAS COMING...

...AND NOW...
JUST DEVASTATION.



NOBODY
DESERVES
THIS FATE.

ASPEN, YOU SAID YOU
FOUND THE ONES WHO DID
THIS IN BELIZE?



I-- YES--
THEY HAD BUILT
SOME KIND OF MAKESHIFT
SETTLEMENT, AT THE
BASE OF THE ICE.



IF THEY'RE
STILL HERE,
THAT'S WHERE
THEY'LL BE.

GENERAL,
SIR! WE'RE UNDER
ATTACK!

WHOOOOOOOM

TAKE EVASIVE
MANEUVERS--

--AND PREPARE
FOR COUNTER-
ATTACK.

SET UP A
PERIMETER AROUND
THE SHIP.

KILLIAN'S SOLDIERS
ARE WELL-TRAINED.
THEY KNOW NO FEAR.

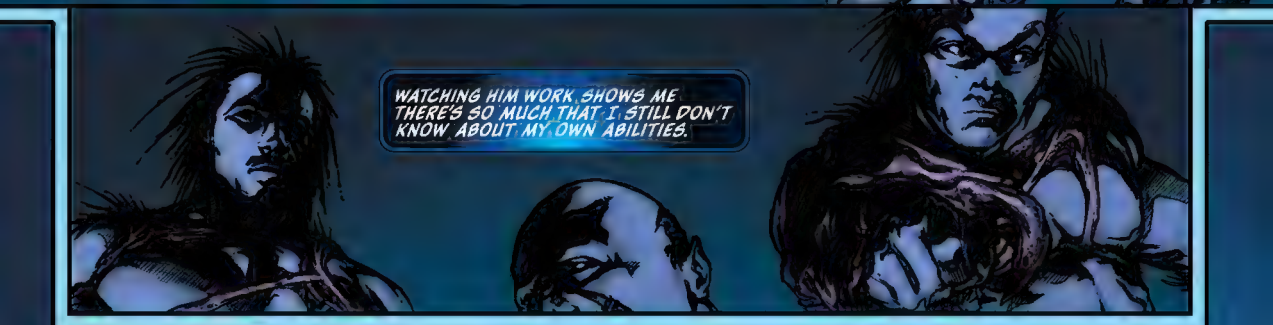
THE ATTACK IS
COMING FROM THE
DARKNESS BELOW.

A close-up of Killian, a man with long, flowing white hair and a determined, intense expression. He is wearing a dark, textured garment. His right hand is extended forward, palm facing down, with a glowing blue sphere of water forming just below it. The sphere has a swirling, vortex-like pattern on its surface.

KILLIAN HAS NO INTENTION OF LETTING THEM MAINTAIN THAT ADVANTAGE.

A wider shot showing the glowing blue water sphere in the center. To the right, two other characters are visible. One is a man with long, flowing white hair, wearing a dark, form-fitting suit, in a dynamic pose as if dodging or attacking. The other is a more monstrous-looking figure with a large, curved horn or tusk on its head. The background is a dark, textured surface.

A SIMPLE SPHERE OF WATER, BUT SOMEHOW HE CAN CHARGE THE ELECTRICAL IONS WITHIN IT.

A panel showing three characters from the chest up, looking towards the right. On the left is a man with long, dark, spiky hair and a beard, wearing a dark, textured garment. In the center is a man with short, dark hair, looking intently. On the right is a man with long, dark hair, wearing a dark, textured garment, looking towards the right. The background is dark.

WATCHING HIM WORK, SHOWS ME THERE'S SO MUCH THAT I STILL DON'T KNOW ABOUT MY OWN ABILITIES.

A panel showing a scene from a low angle, looking up at a pool of water. In the center of the pool is a glowing blue sphere of water, similar to the one in the first panel. To the left, a man with long, dark hair is crouching, looking towards the sphere. To the right, a man with long, dark hair is crouching, looking towards the sphere. In the background, a large, dark, spiky object, possibly a plant or a piece of machinery, is visible. The water in the pool is dark, and the sphere is the only source of light.

OUR OPPONENTS, ON THE OTHER HAND...



...KNOW
THEY'RE
BUSTED!



FWEEOOOSH

WOW. SOMETIMES IT
SCARES ME TO THINK
HOW MUCH POWER
HE CAN WIELD SO
EFFORTLESSLY.



*M*OMENTS LATER.

ASPEN
WAS RIGHT. THOSE
WERE DEFINITELY VANA'S
SOLDIERS. PERHAPS
THEY'VE GONE
ROGUE?

WE NEED
TO FIND OUT.
QUICKLY.

IT'S
TIME TO GO,
ASPEN.



YEAH,
ABOUT
THAT.

YOU'VE GOT THIS
HANDLED PRETTY WELL.
I'M THINKING I'LL JUST
HEAD HOME.

YOU'D PROBABLY
BE SAFER WITH US, AT
LEAST UNTIL WE KNOW
WHAT WE'RE DEALING
WITH.

SHE CAN
GO IF SHE WISHES.
SIPHON. HER HOME
ISN'T WITH US.

AS
YOU WISH,
ASPEN.



THANK HEAVENS.
I DEFINITELY HAD
ENOUGH OF THIS
FOR ONE DAY...



...BUT THESE ICE WALLS STILL
TROUBLE ME, AS DOES KILLIAN.

SOMETHING TELLS ME I
HAVEN'T SEEN THE LAST
OF EITHER OF THEM. NOT
BY A LONG SHOT.

*T*O BE
CONTINUED...

#4
COVER A

10
FEB
10

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY, FATHOM — 15 YEARS OF BLUE!

david WOHL • cory SMITH • alex KONAT • peter STEIGERWALD • josh REED



A L L N E W
MICHAEL TURNER'S

FATHOM



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#4
COVER B

10
FOR
10

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ALL NEW
MICHAEL TURNER'S

FATMOM



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#4
COVER C

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A L L N E W
MICHAEL TURNER'S

EARTH



#4
COVER D

10
FEB
10

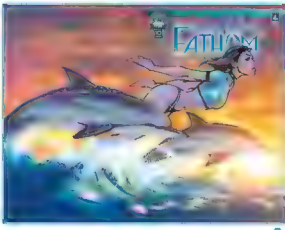
script: ADRIAN • story: ADRIAN • art: ADRIAN • pencils: JIMMY • inks: JIMMY • colors: JIMMY • letters: JIMMY



A L L N E W
MICHAEL TURNER'S

FATHOM





A

BY -MICHAEL TURNER
& PETER STEIGERWALD



B

BY -KOTI TURNBULL
& JOHN S.



C

BY -ALEX KONAT
& BETH SOTELO



D

BY -ALEX KONAT
& BETH SOTELO



E

BLACK FRIDA
LIMITED EDITION OF 2
BY -PAOLO PANTALENA
& PETER STEIGERWALD

DAVID WOHL &
FRANK MASTROMAURO

plot

DAVID WOHL

script

CORY SMITH, ALEX KONAT

pencils

CORY SMITH inks

MARK ROSLAN digital inks

PETER STEIGERWALD

color

JOSH REED

lettering



FATHOM

TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES

THE FATE OF TWO CIVILIZATIONS RESIDES IN HER HANDS

THE BLUE CITY OF ANDORIA IS DESTROYED

ON THE WAY

FATHOM CREATED BY MICHAEL TURNER
THE BLACK CO-CREATED BY MICHAEL TURNER AND PETER STEIGERWALD

Editors: VINCE HERNANDEZ, FRANK MASTROMAURO Design and Production: MARK ROSLAN, PETER STEIGERWALD, JOSH REED Lettering font designed by: DREAMER DESIGN

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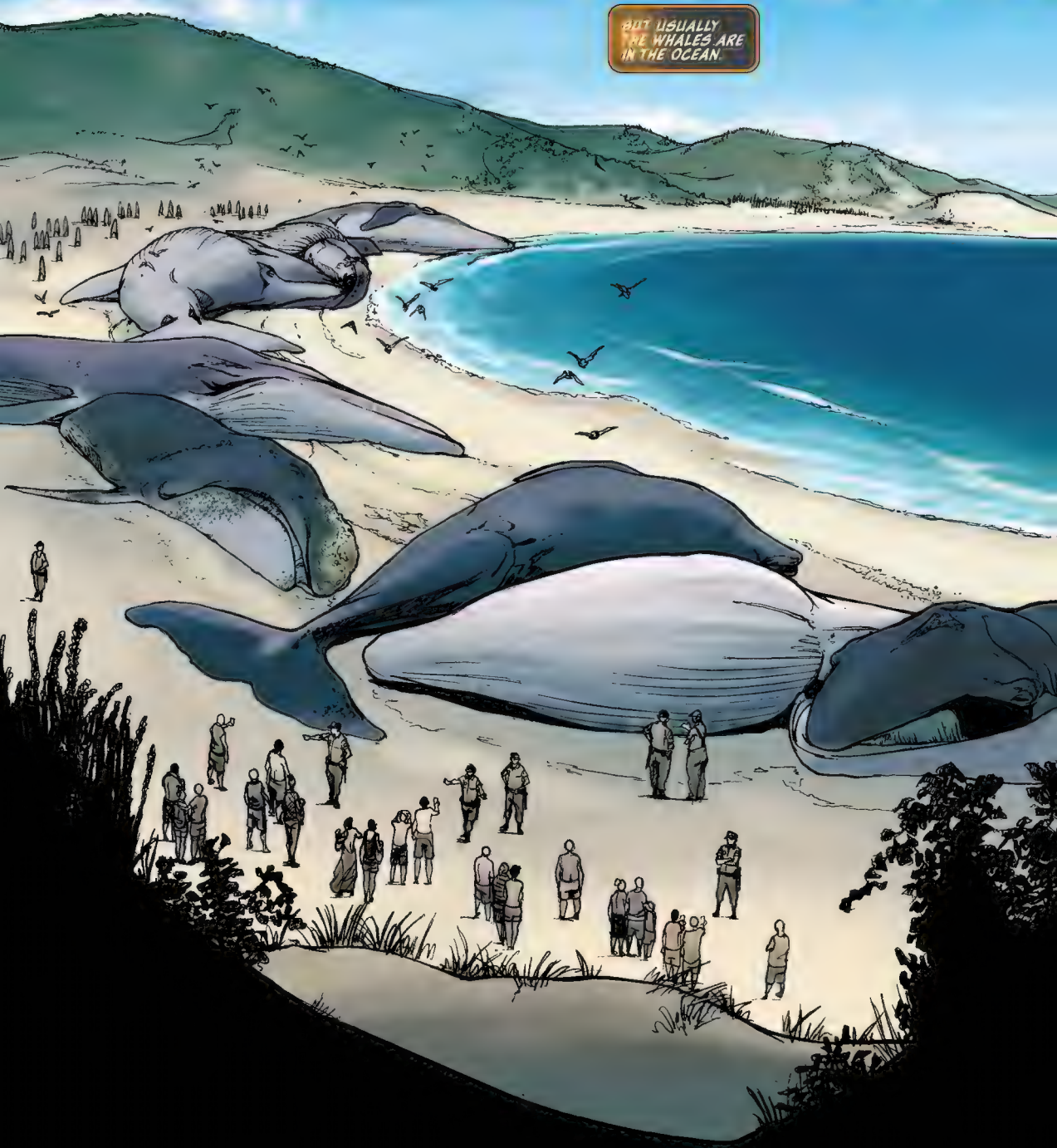
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BUT USUALLY
THE WHALES ARE
IN THE OCEAN.

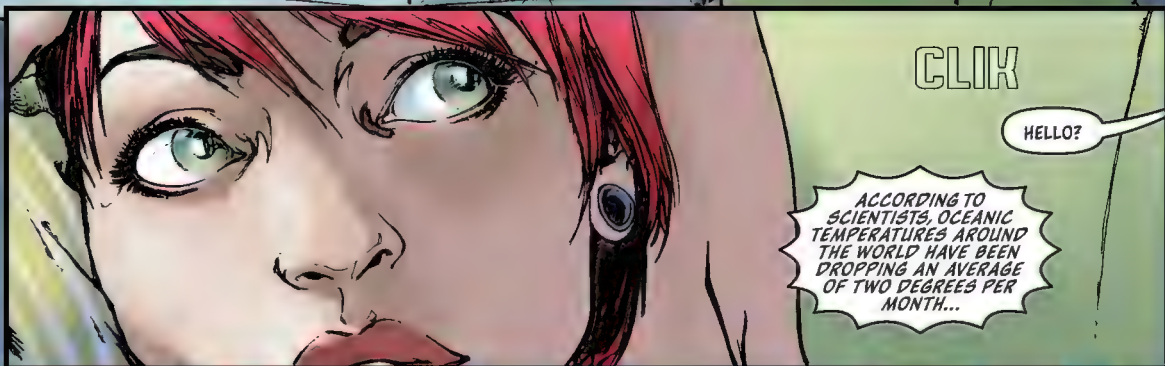


L A JOLLA, CALIFORNIA.

BATHERS
IN THE BEACHES
OF ANDALUSIA SPAIN
WERE TREATED TO A RARE--
AND I MUST SAY-- QUITE
DISTURBING SITE OF
DOZENS OF BEACHED
BLUE WHALES.

THE MOST
ALARMING PART OF
THIS PHENOMENON IS THAT
IT'S BECOMING MORE AND MORE
COMMON AROUND THE WORLD, AS
MARINE CREATURES CONTINUE
TO BEHAVE IN UNUSUAL
WAYS.

WHILE
OCEANOGRAPHERS
AND GEOLOGISTS REMAIN
BAFFLED BY THE UNDERLYING
CAUSE, SCIENTISTS ARE IN A
CONSENSUS THAT THEY BELIEVE
THE RAPID DECLINE IN OCEAN
TEMPERATURES WORLDWIDE
IS THE REASON.



CLIK

HELLO?

ACCORDING TO
SCIENTISTS, OCEANIC
TEMPERATURES AROUND
THE WORLD HAVE BEEN
DROPPING AN AVERAGE
OF TWO DEGREES PER
MONTH...

...AND THAT
NUMBER IS GROWING
EXPONENTIALLY HIGHER AS
MORE OF THESE MYSTERIOUS
SO-CALLED "ICE WALLS" KEEP
GROWING IN BODIES OF
WATER ACROSS THE
WORLD.

WHAT
THE HELL!?!?

THOSE WALLS AREN'T SO MYSTERIOUS TO ME ANYMORE. VANA HAS BEEN SENDING HER MINIONS TO PUT THEM UP. ALL OVER THE PLACE... BUT WHY???

DUDE,
THIS WEIRD S#!\$ IS
HAPPENING EVERYWHERE.
JUST LIKE THAT THING
IN BELIZE.

HEY, CAN
YOU CHECK THE
MESSAGES FROM A FEW
DAYS AGO, THAT HUMAN-
BLUE RELATIONS
THINGIE?

I THINK
IT'S TIME WE HAD
A TALK.

YUP-- RIGHT
HERE-- ALAN
SHERWOOD YOU
WANT ME TO CALL
HIM AND SET A
MEETING?

TELL
HIM WE'RE
COMING...

...NOW.

KILLIAN HAS STATED THESE SOLDIERS WERE CLEARLY THE AGENTS OF VANA. THE DESTRUCTION OF ANDORIA IS AN ACT OF WAR AND CAN NOT GO UNAVENGED!

THEIR ACTIONS ARE WREAKING HAVOC WITH OUR WAY OF LIFE!



I UNDERSTAND YOUR CONCERNS, BUT WE'VE HAD NO CONTACT WITH VANA OR HER PEOPLE FOR QUITE SOME TIME. ANDORIA MAY HAVE BEEN JUST A MISUNDERSTANDING.

PERHAPS THEY'RE EXPANDING THEIR DOMAIN AND AREN'T REALIZING THE ILL EFFECTS THESE WALLS OF ICE ARE HAVING.

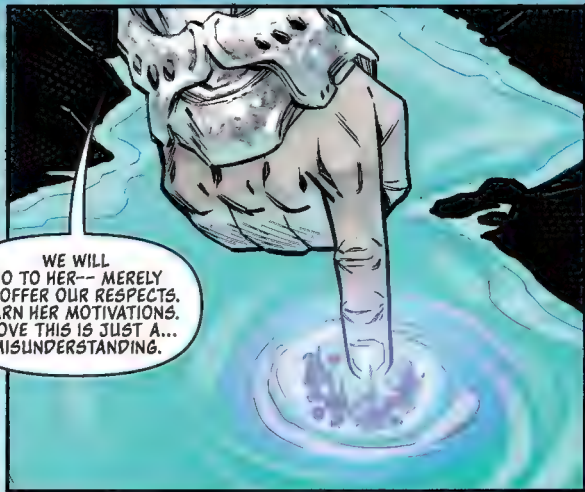


I REFUSE TO BELIEVE THAT VANA HAS ANY ILL WILL TOWARD US OR ANY OF THE BLUE.

AFTER ALL, I TRAINED WITH-- AND FOUGHT ALONGSIDE-- HER SONS, BIRANHA AND TARAS. WE WERE LIKE BROTHERS.



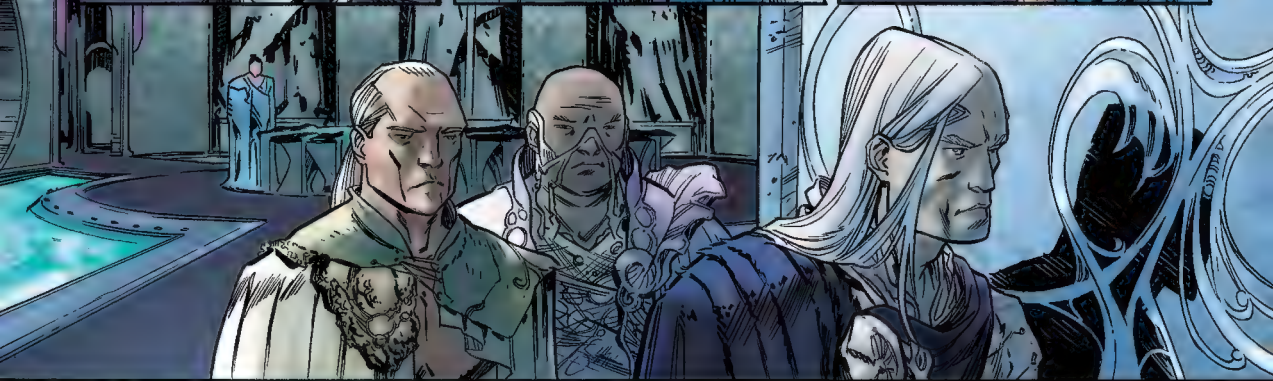
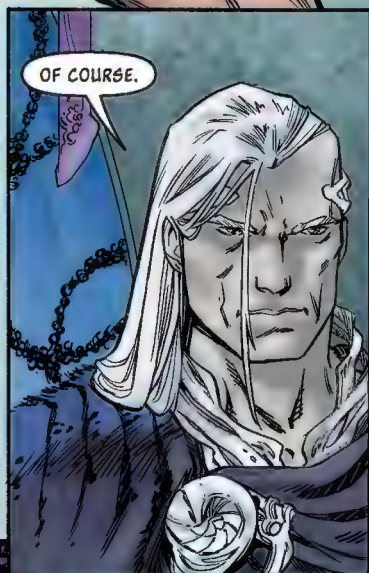
WITH YOUR PERMISSION, SIR, I'D LIKE TO TAKE MY MEN ON AN EXPEDITION.

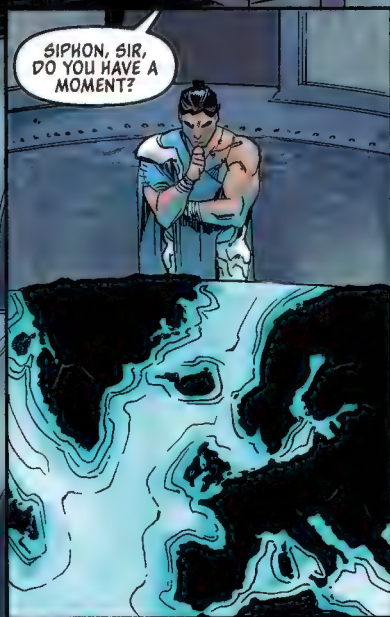


WE WILL GO TO HER-- MERELY TO OFFER OUR RESPECTS. LEARN HER MOTIVATIONS. PROVE THIS IS JUST A... MISUNDERSTANDING.



YOU HAVE MY
PERMISSION, KILLIAN.
GO TO HER COMPOUND
ON A DIPLOMATIC
VISIT...
...A MISSION
OF PEACE.





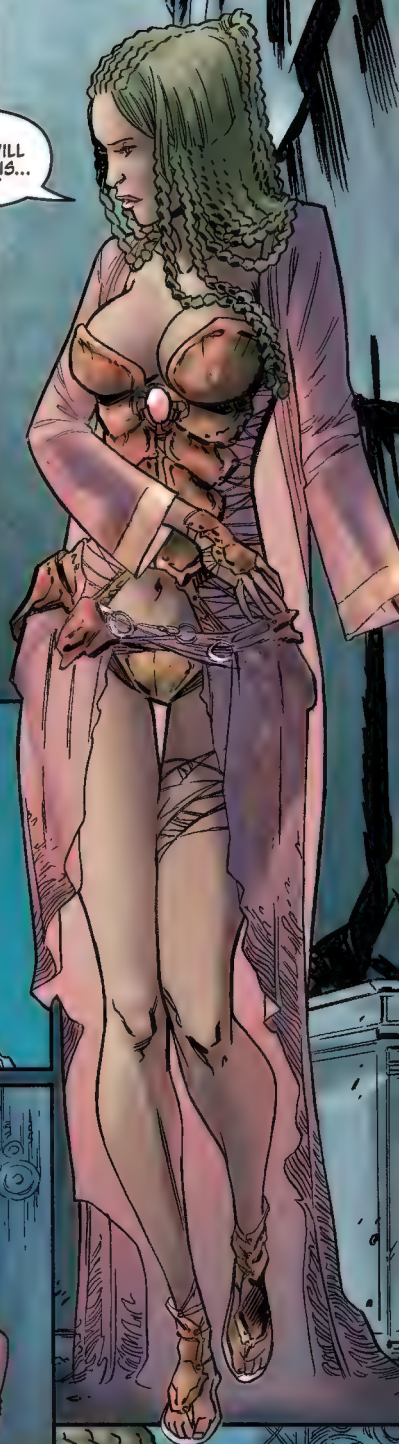
SIPHON, SIR,
DO YOU HAVE A
MOMENT?



OF COURSE,
ANYA. HOW ARE
YOU DOING?

AS WELL AS CAN BE
EXPECTED, UNDER THE
CIRCUMSTANCES.

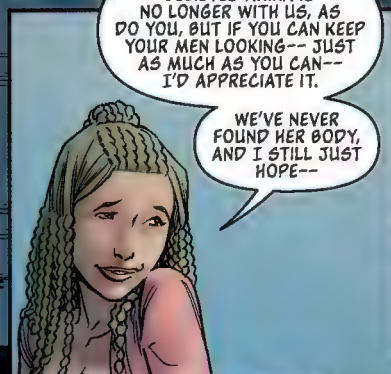
I TAKE IT
MY HUSBAND WILL
BE GOING ON THIS...
EXPEDITION?



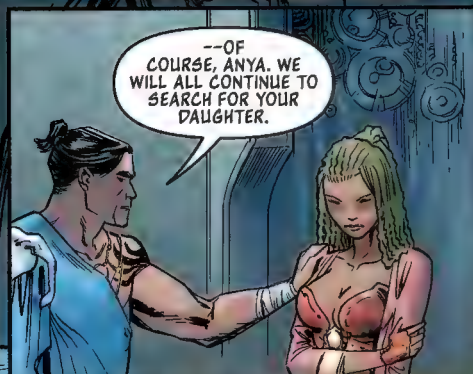
HOPEFULLY AT
SOME POINT YOU'LL
BE ABLE TO ASK
HIM YOURSELF.

I'D LIKE
TO THINK THAT,
BUT I BELIEVE
THAT TIME HAS
PASSED.

I KNOW HE
BELIEVES ANIKA IS
NO LONGER WITH US, AS
DO YOU, BUT IF YOU CAN KEEP
YOUR MEN LOOKING-- JUST
AS MUCH AS YOU CAN--
I'D APPRECIATE IT.



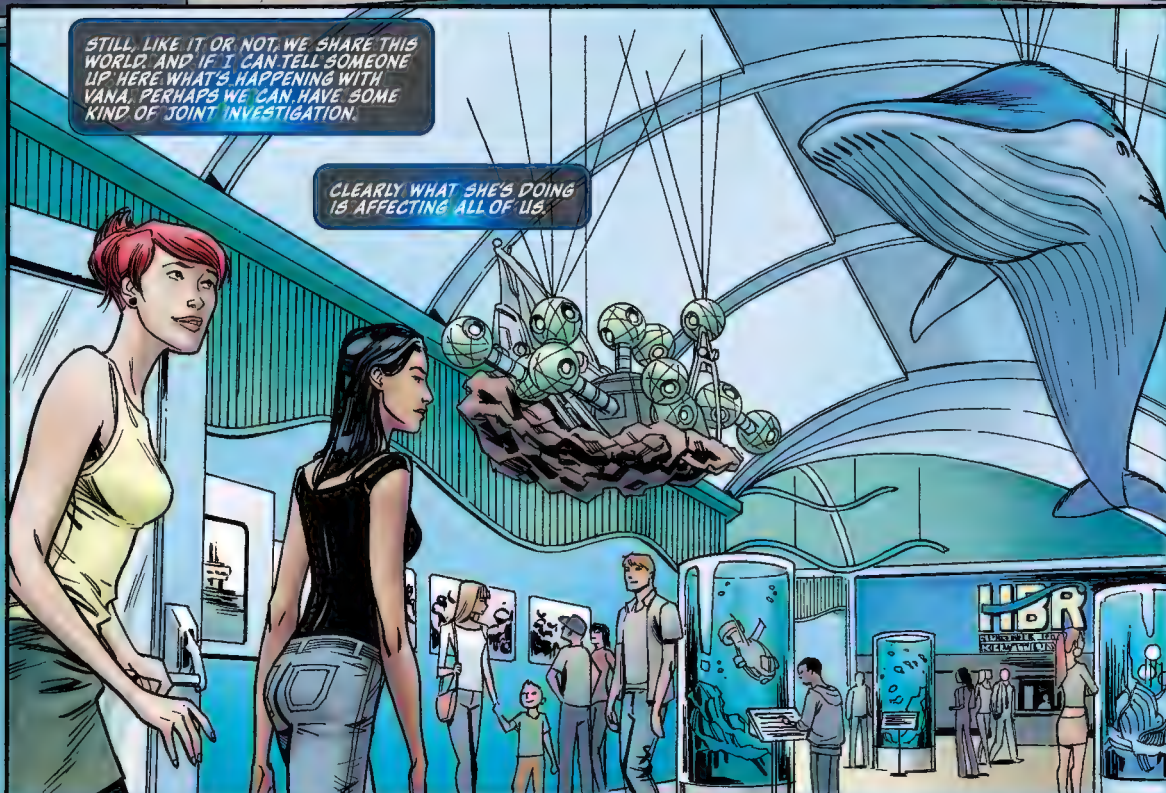
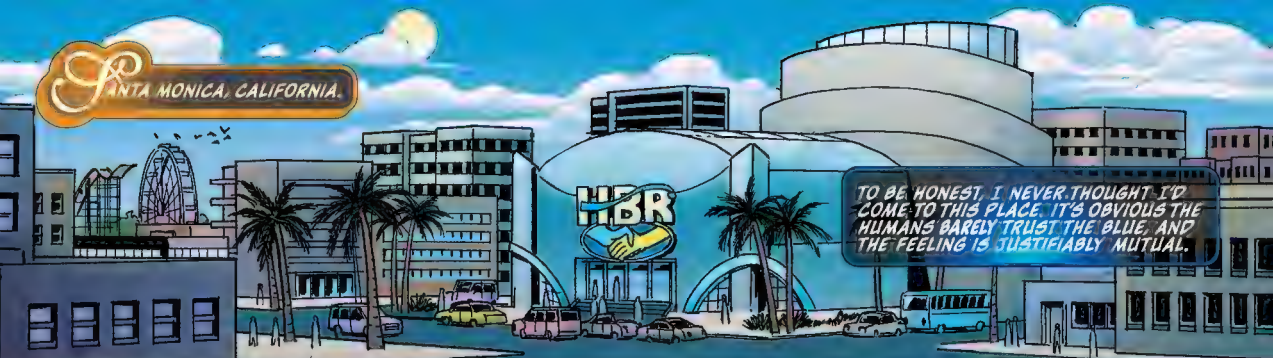
WE'VE NEVER
FOUND HER BODY,
AND I STILL JUST
HOPE--

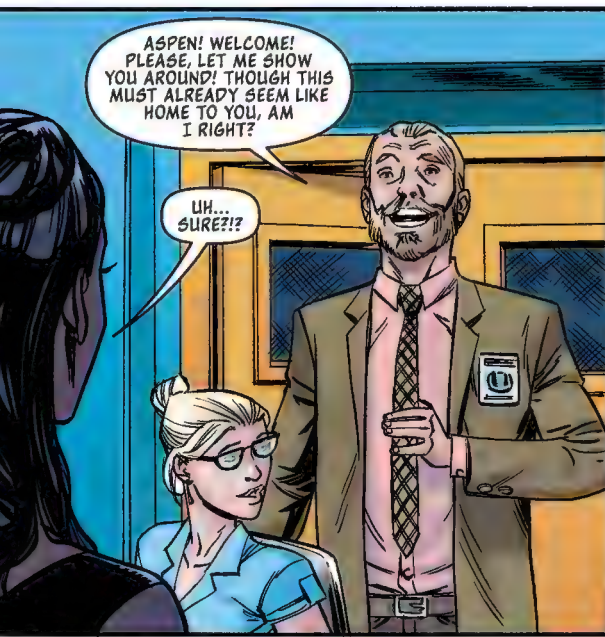


--OF
COURSE, ANYA. WE
WILL ALL CONTINUE TO
SEARCH FOR YOUR
DAUGHTER.



THANK YOU,
SIPHON. I
APPRECIATE
IT.



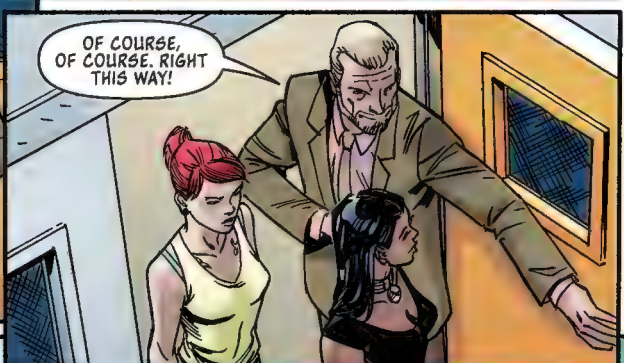


ASPEN! WELCOME!
PLEASE, LET ME SHOW
YOU AROUND! THOUGH THIS
MUST ALREADY SEEM LIKE
HOME TO YOU, AM
I RIGHT?

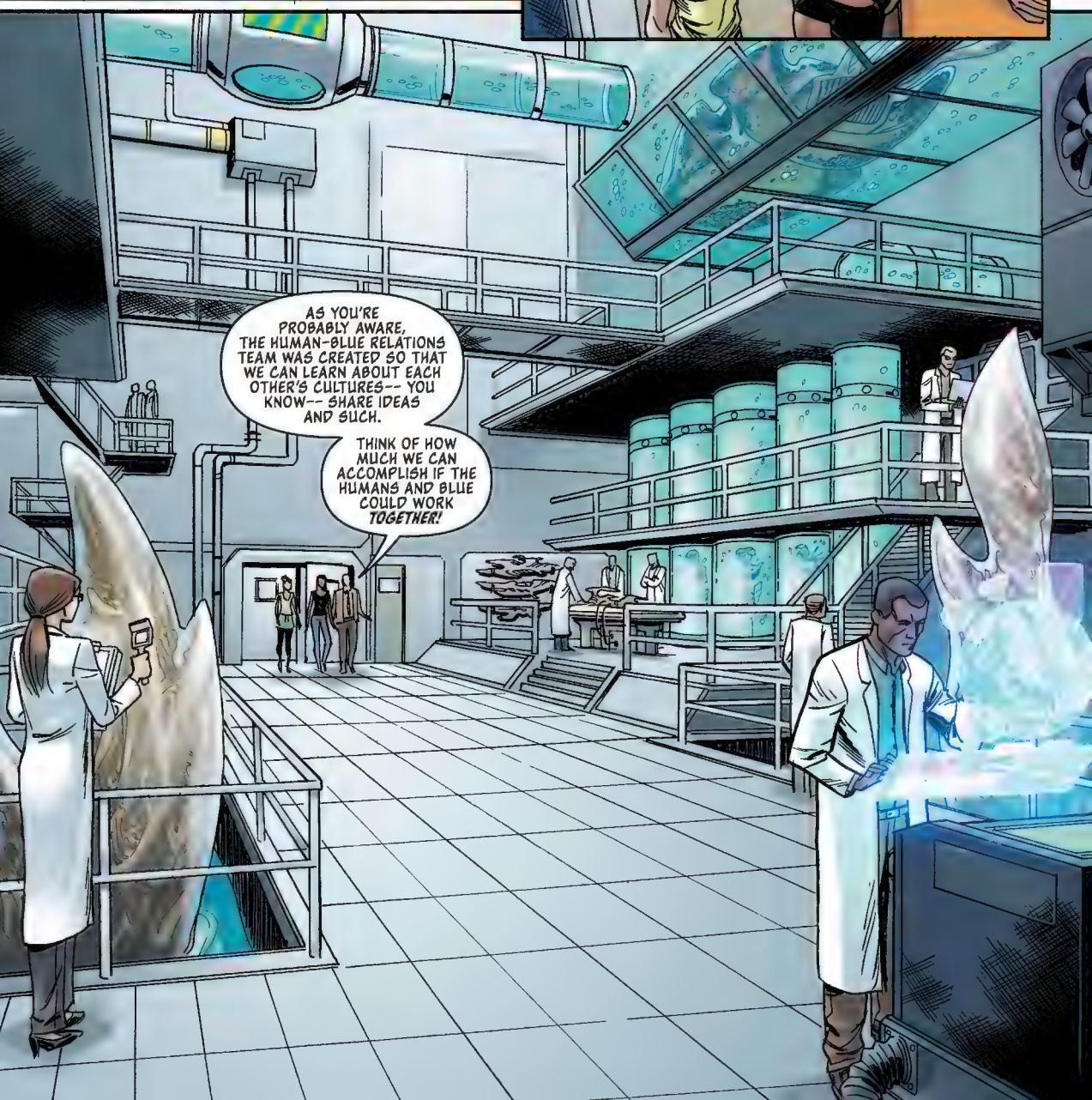
UH...
SURE???



MY ASSISTANT
JUDITH BANYANSKI WILL BE
ACCOMPANYING ME.



OF COURSE,
OF COURSE. RIGHT
THIS WAY!



AS YOU'RE
PROBABLY AWARE,
THE HUMAN-BLUE RELATIONS
TEAM WAS CREATED SO THAT
WE CAN LEARN ABOUT EACH
OTHER'S CULTURES-- YOU
KNOW-- SHARE IDEAS
AND SUCH.

THINK OF HOW
MUCH WE CAN
ACCOMPLISH IF THE
HUMANS AND BLUE
COULD WORK
TOGETHER!



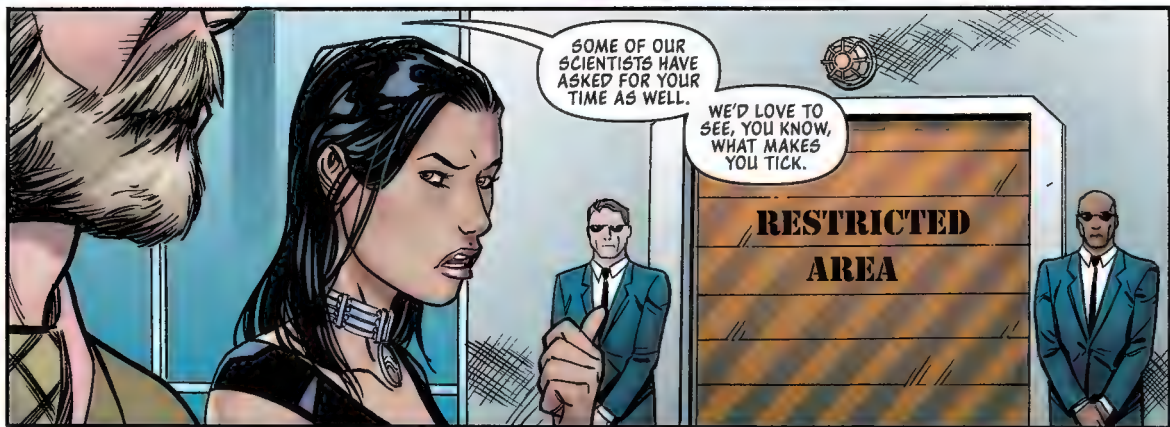
TO BE HONEST, THAT'S WHY I'M HERE.

I'M WONDERING IF THERE'S ANYTHING WE CAN DO TO HELP WITH WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW.

I BELIEVE I KNOW WHAT'S RESPONSIBLE FOR THE COOLING---

--OH THAT'S MORE THE D.O.'S AREA OF EXPERTISE.

WE WERE THINKING SOMETHING MORE ALONG THE LINES OF A TALK SHOW, WHERE YOU TELL US STORIES OF WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE AMONG THE BLUE!



SOME OF OUR SCIENTISTS HAVE ASKED FOR YOUR TIME AS WELL.

WE'D LOVE TO SEE, YOU KNOW, WHAT MAKES YOU TICK.

RESTRICTED AREA



OH, WOW, SOUNDS GREAT.

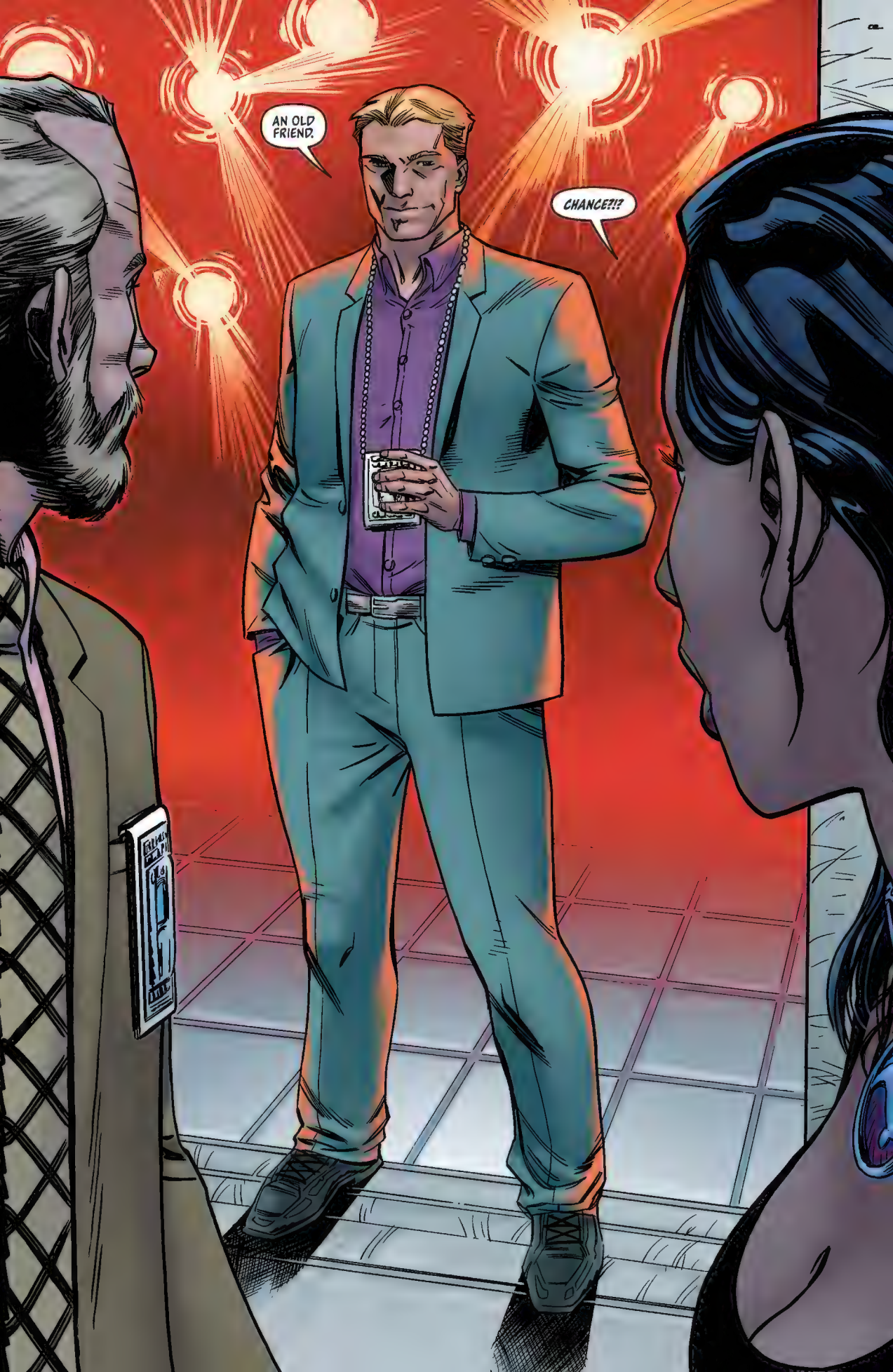
WELL, UH, THANKS MISTER SHERWOOD. WE'LL BE IN TOUCH.



I DON'T THINK YOU UNDERSTAND, MS. MATTHEWS. THIS IS FOR YOUR OWN GOOD AS WELL AS OURS. IF YOU'LL JUST FOLLOW ME--

I THINK YOU MIGHT WANNA LISTEN TO THE LADY.

AND YOU ARE...?



AN OLD FRIEND.

CHANCE?!?

WILLIAM
MURPHY
1989
100%

ARCTIC CIRCLE.

AS KILLIAN AND HIS TEAM APPROACH VANA'S DOMAIN, HE CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL APPREHENSION ABOUT HIS MISSION.

HER SONS, BIRANHA AND TARAS, WERE AMONG HIS OLDEST FRIENDS. AND ALTHOUGH HE NEVER SPENT MUCH TIME WITH VANA, KILLIAN KNEW THAT TARAS' DEATH HAD A MAJOR IMPACT ON HER.

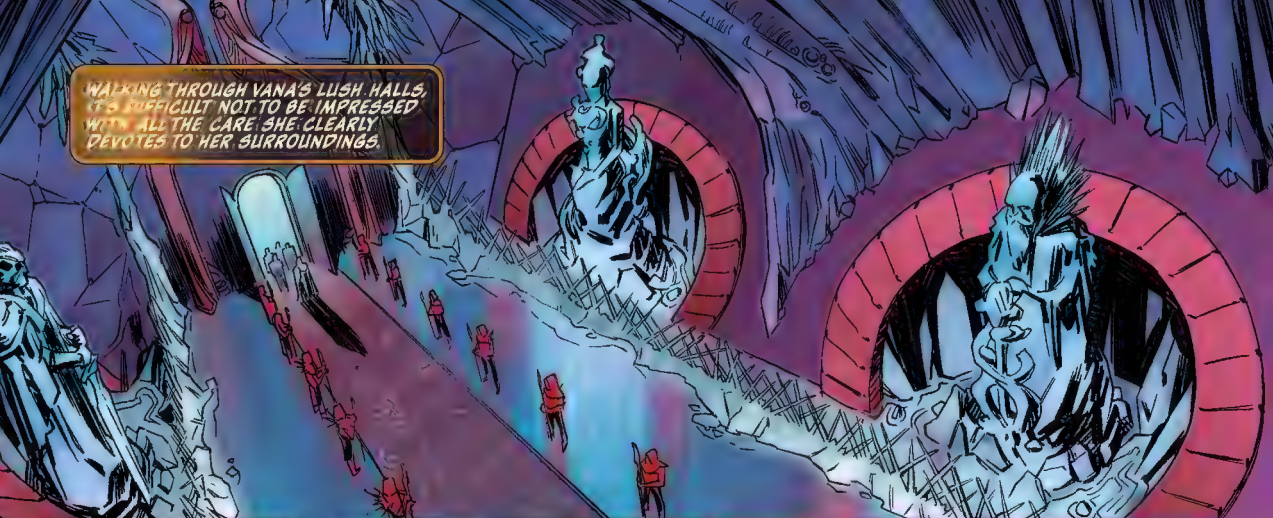
SINCE HIS DEATH, LITTLE HAS BEEN HEARD FROM VANA.

JUST STRANGE RUMORS ABOUT EXPERIMENTS, AND PERHAPS SHE'S BECOME MORE... ECCENTRIC WITH TIME.

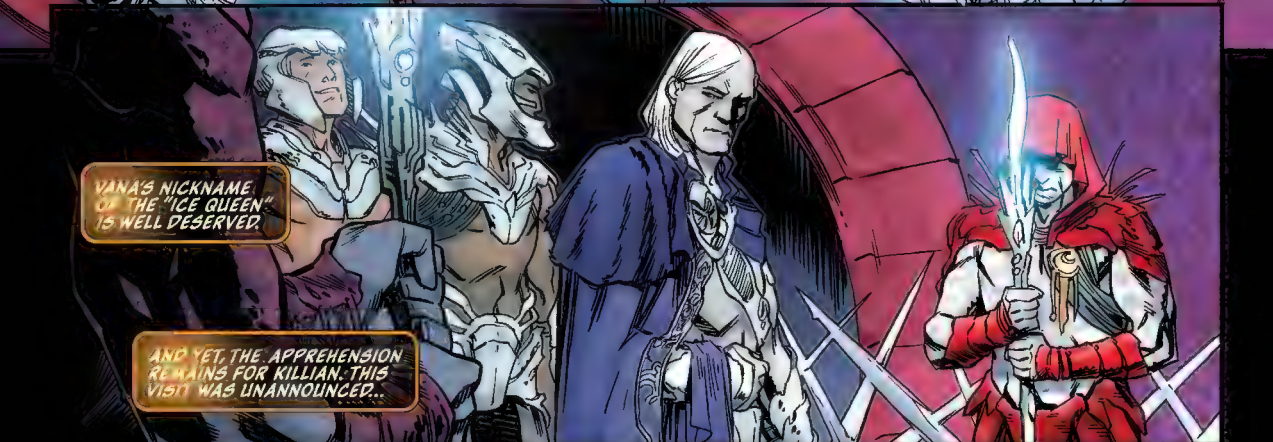
I AM KILLIAN OF THE MURIA BLUE. I WAS HOPING TO HAVE AN AUDIENCE WITH VANA.

COMMANDER KILLIAN, SIR, IT IS AN HONOR TO MEET YOU.

PLEASE ENTER-- SHE HAS BEEN EXPECTING YOU.



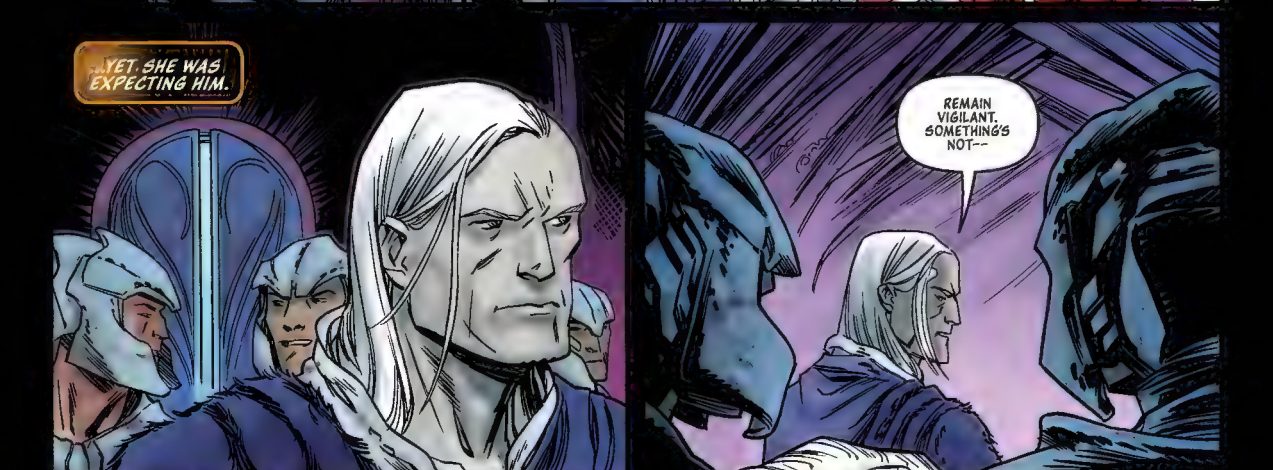
WALKING THROUGH VANA'S LUSH HALLS, IT'S DIFFICULT NOT TO BE IMPRESSED WITH ALL THE CARE SHE CLEARLY DEVOTES TO HER SURROUNDINGS.



VANA'S NICKNAME OF THE "ICE QUEEN" IS WELL DESERVED.

AND YET, THE APPREHENSION REMAINS FOR KILLIAN. THIS VISIT WAS UNANNOUNCED...

...YET, SHE WAS EXPECTING HIM.



REMAIN VIGILANT, SOMETHING'S NOT--



KILLIAN, HOW WONDERFUL IT IS TO SEE YOU AGAIN AFTER ALL THIS TIME.



PLEASE,
ALLOW ME TO
WELCOME YOU TO
MY CRYSTAL
PALACE.

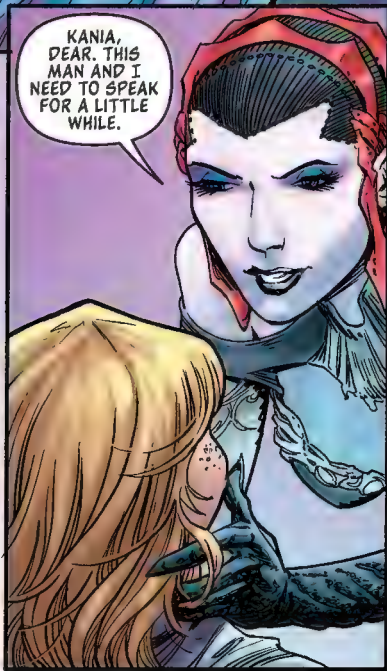
YOU AND YOUR
MEN ARE MY PERSONAL
GUESTS AND SHALL BE
ACCORDED ANYTHING
YOU WISH FOR.



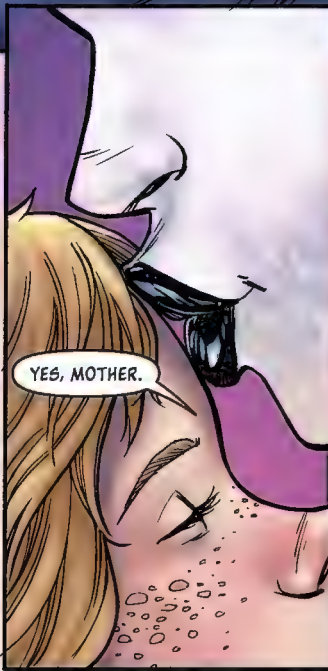
VANA...
I AM HUMBLLY AT
YOUR SERVICE.



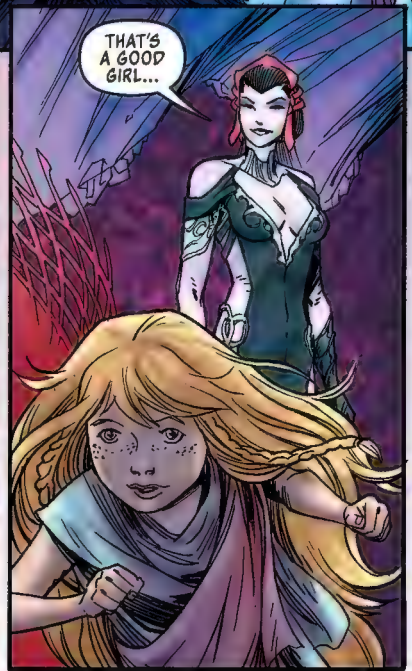
OH, KILLIAN,
DON'T BE SILLY.
THERE'S NO NEED
FOR PRETENSE
HERE. YOU'RE
FAMILY!



KANIA,
DEAR. THIS
MAN AND I
NEED TO SPEAK
FOR A LITTLE
WHILE.



YES, MOTHER.



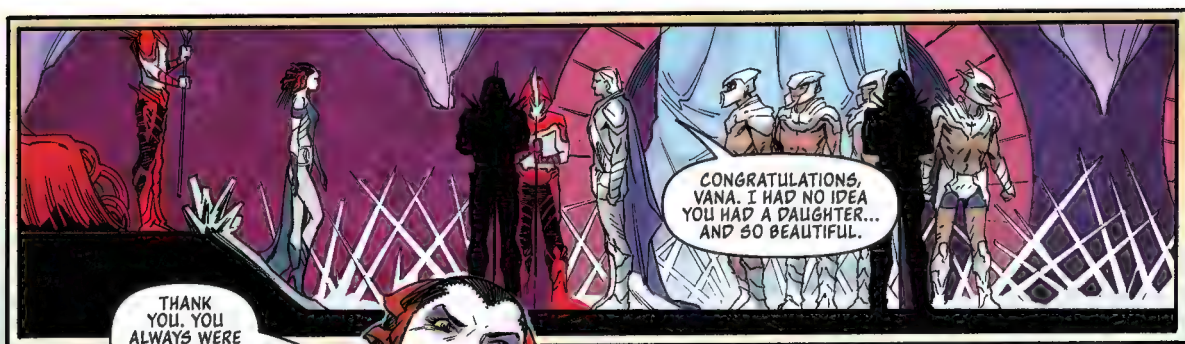
THAT'S
A GOOD
GIRL...



AS VANA'S DAUGHTER DEPARTS, KILLIAN
CAN'T HELP BUT LOOK AT HER. THERE'S
JUST SOMETHING ABOUT HER...



SOMETHING SO...
FAMILIAR

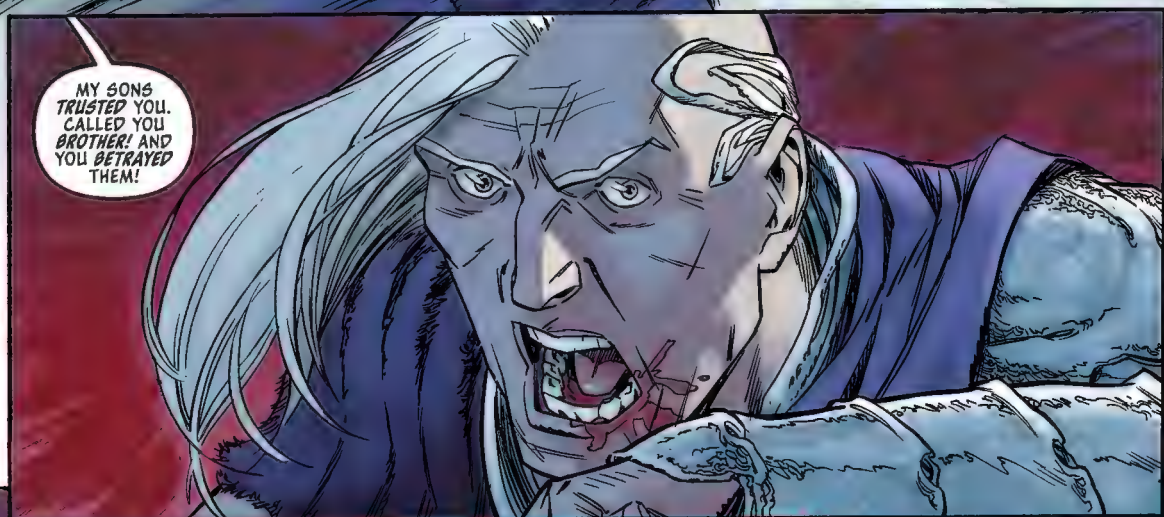


CONGRATULATIONS, VANA. I HAD NO IDEA YOU HAD A DAUGHTER... AND SO BEAUTIFUL.

THANK YOU. YOU ALWAYS WERE A CHARMING ONE...

...FOR A LIAR!

SMACK



MY SONS TRUSTED YOU. CALLED YOU BROTHER! AND YOU BETRAYED THEM!



TARAS' BLOOD IS ON YOUR HANDS!



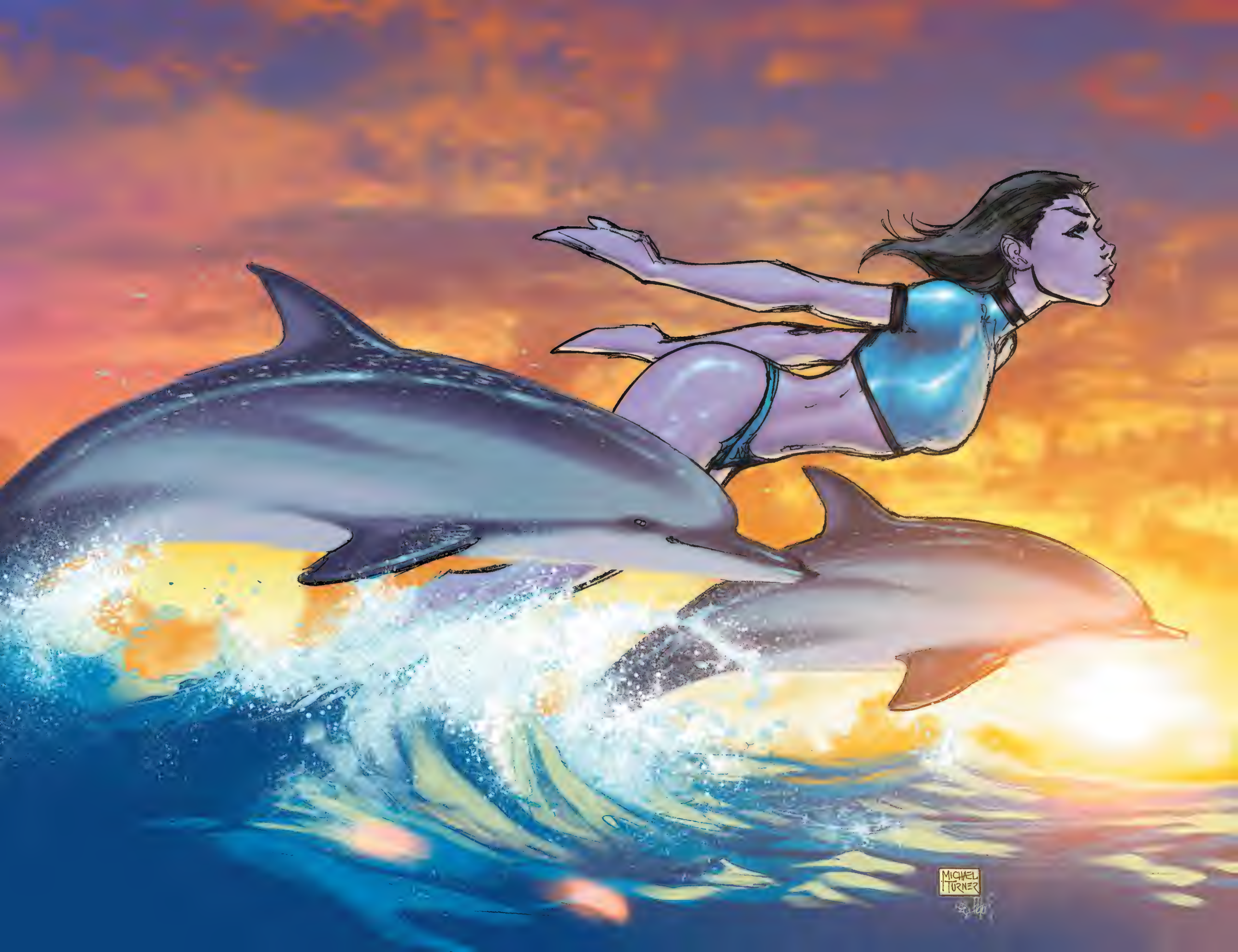






AH, MUCH
BETTER. DON'T
YOU THINK?

To BE
CONTINUED...



MICHAEL
TURNER

#5 10 FOR 10
COVER A

W.B. WUHL • KONAT • peter STEIGERWALD • josh REED



A L L N E W
MICHAEL TURNER'S

FANTOM





david WOHL • alex KONAT • peter STEIGERWALD • josh REED

ALL NEW FANTASY TURNER'S EARTHOM

10
EARTH
10

#5

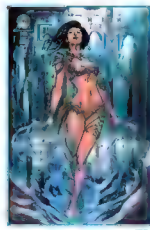
COVER B





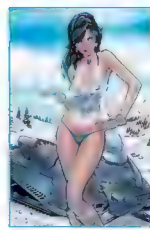
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pencils

MARK ROSLAN
digital inks

PETER STEIGERWALD
colors

JOSH REED
lettering



FATHOM

FRIENDS IN GOLD PLACES

THE FATE OF TWO CIVILIZATIONS RESTS IN HER HANDS

ASPEN AND JUDITH visited the Human-Bug Relations building in
Monica to offer her services for the alarming cooling phenomenon occur-

er their need. Until Aspen encountered a very special person from her

FATHOM CREATED BY MICHAEL TURNER
THE BLACK CO-CREATED BY MICHAEL TURNER AND PETER STEIGERWALD

Editors: Vince Hernandez, FRANK MASTROMAURO Design and Production: MARK ROSLAN, PETER STEIGERWALD, JOSH REED Lettering font designed by: DREAMER DESIGN

FOR ASPEN:

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MICHAEL TURNER'S FATHOM™ Vol. 5 Issue 5

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WHAT A
WASTE OF TIME THAT
VISIT WAS. HUMAN-
BLUE RELATIONS, MY
A\$\$.

WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN?

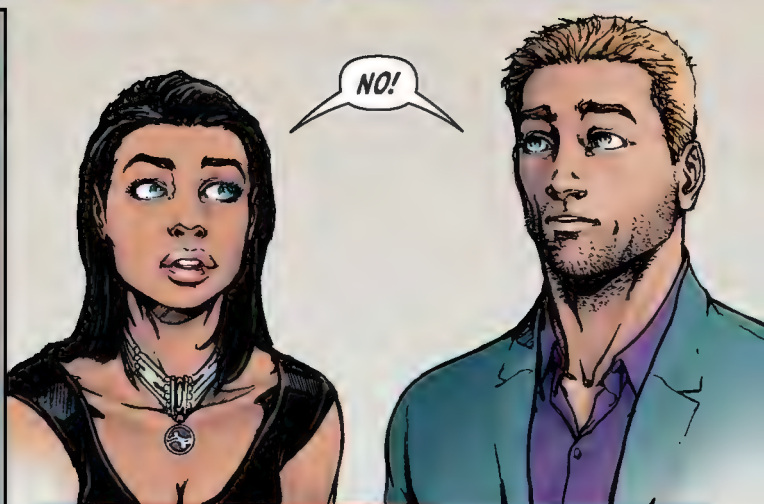
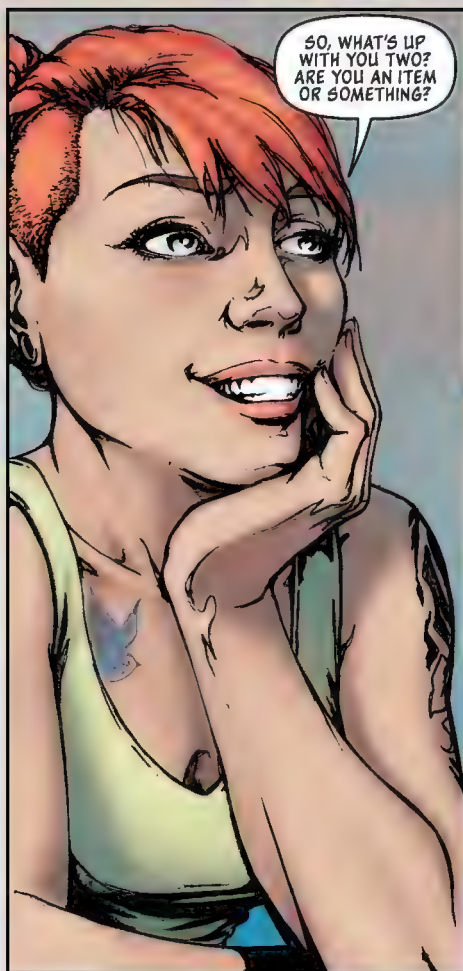
THEY CLAIM TO
BE DEVOTED TO BRINGING
THE TWO SPECIES TOGETHER,
BUT REALLY THEY'RE JUST
OUT TO EXPLOIT ONE
THING OR ANOTHER.

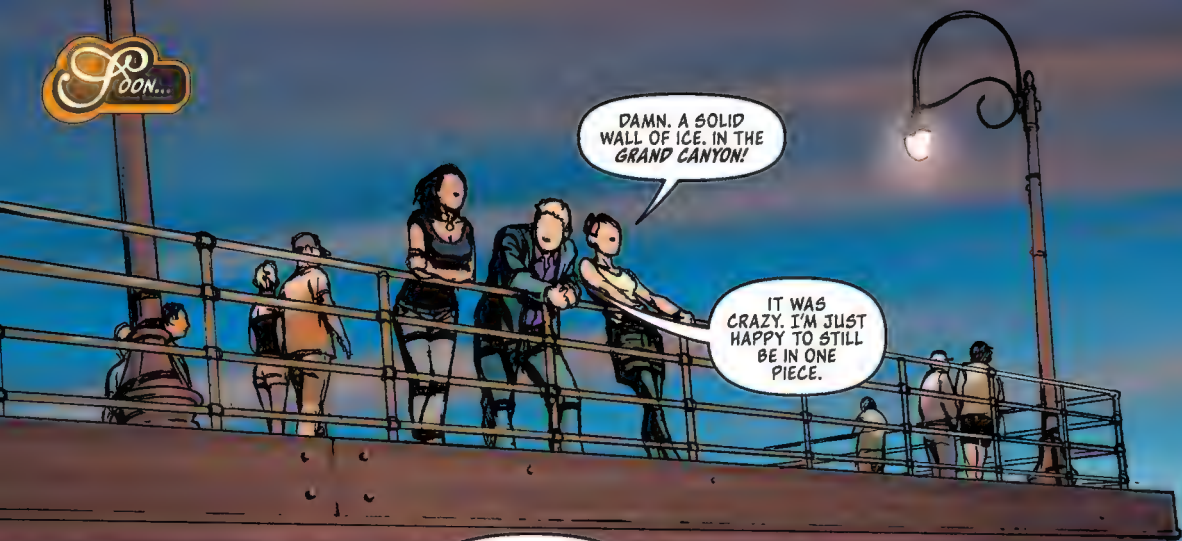
JUST LIKE
THE REST OF
THEM.

WELL, ONE
GOOD THING
CAME OUT OF
IT, ANYWAY.

WHAT'S
THAT?

LUNCH IS
SERVED!





RIVERS, OCEANS, THE ICE HAS BEEN POPPING UP EVERYWHERE-- AND IT'S BEGINNING TO AFFECT THE ENVIRONMENT ON A GLOBAL SCALE.

EVEN THE CURRENTS ARE BEGINNING TO CHA--

AAAAAAAAA!!!





TOO MANY
PEOPLE
AROUND...

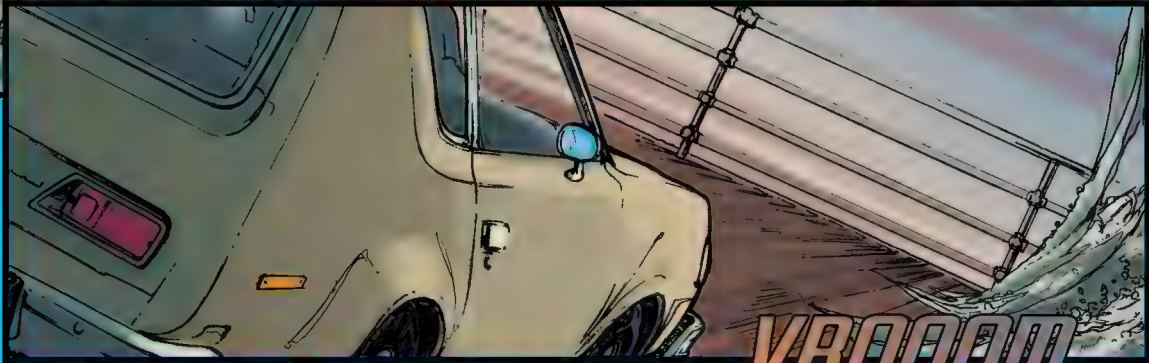


...NEED TO GET
THEM OUT OF
THE WAY FIRST!

FFSHWWW



WHSHHHHHKKKKK



VROOOM



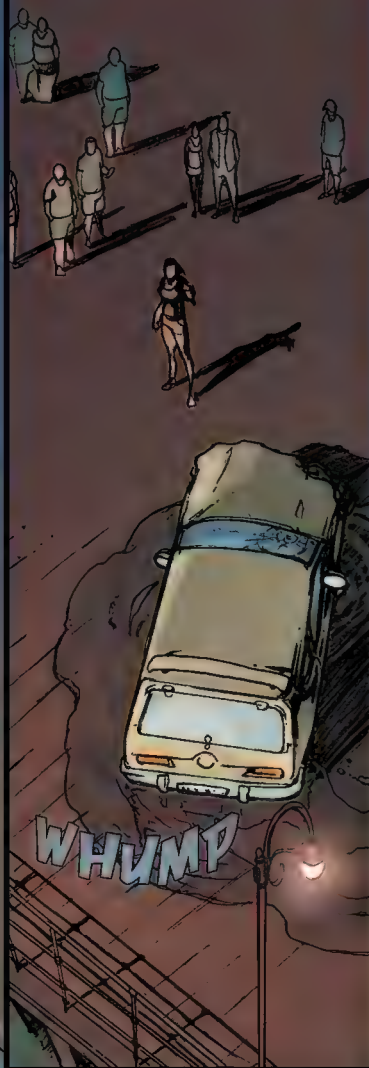
KRASSHHKKK



THAT WAS TOO
CLOSE FOR
COMFORT!

WOOOOSH!!!

JUST A
LITTLE
MORE...



STUFF LIKE THIS
ALWAYS SEEMS TO
HAPPEN WHEN SHE'S
AROUND-- AM I
RIGHT?

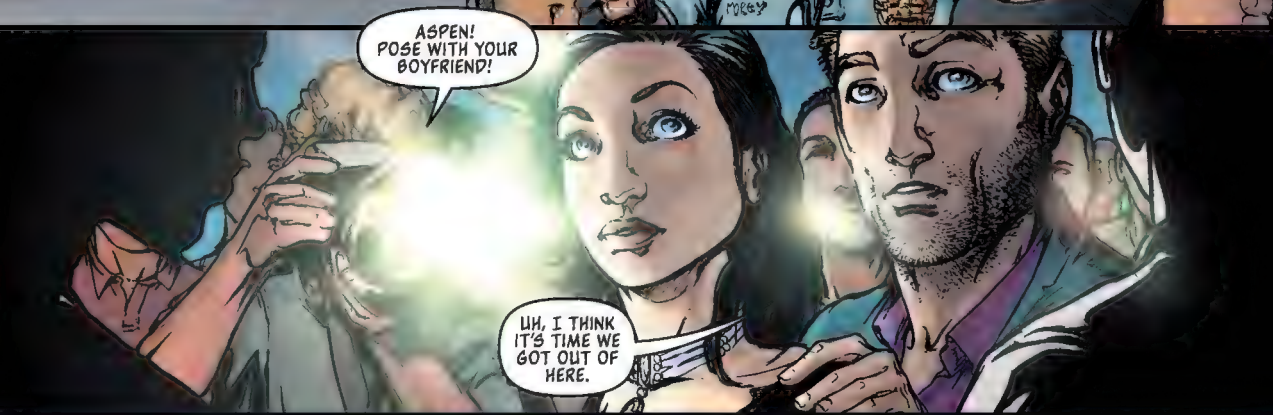
SERIOUSLY.



DUNNO
WHAT HAPPENED.
BRAKES CUT OUT.
I'M SORRY. I'M
SORRY.

IT'S ALL
RIGHT. EVERYONE'S
ALL RIGHT. JUST
TAKE IT EASY.







QUICKLY--
CLOSE THE
DOOR.

THANK
YOU FOR THE
HELP!

I ALWAYS
FORGET WHAT
THINGS ARE LIKE IN
L.A. EVERYBODY
HAS A CAMERA.



THANKS
AGAIN-- I--
YOU...



HELLO AGAIN.
WE WERE, AS YOU SAY,
"IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD,"
AND YOU LOOKED LIKE
YOU COULD USE
THE HELP.



I TAKE
IT YOU KNOW
THIS GUY?

UNFORTUNATELY,
YES.

CHANCE,
JUDITH, THIS
IS FYODOR
LUZHIN.

OH!
THE CREEPY
RUSSIAN!

YOU WOUND ME, MS. MATTHEWS. I WAS MERELY KEEPING TRACK OF YOUR WHEREABOUTS IN THE HOPES THAT YOU'D RECONSIDER MY OFFER.

SURELY YOU'RE AWARE THAT WE ARE IN THE MIDST OF AN ECOLOGICAL CRISIS.

I IMAGINE THAT'S WHY YOU PAID A VISIT TO THE HUMAN-BLUE RELATIONS OFFICE, BUT THEY ARE CLUELESS.

AS MUCH AS IT PAINS ME TO ADMIT IT, HE'S RIGHT.

AND YOU HAVE THE ANSWERS?

YES...

BUT IN ORDER TO FULLY UNDERSTAND, YOU MUST ACCOMPANY ME TO OUR FACILITY IN RUSSIA.



ELSEWHERE...

COME
HERE, MY DEAR
KANIA.

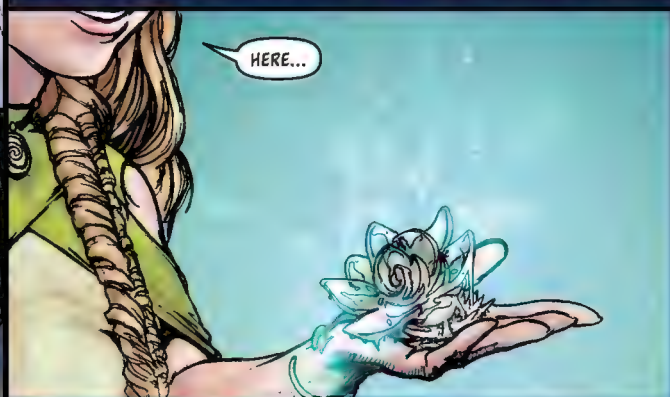
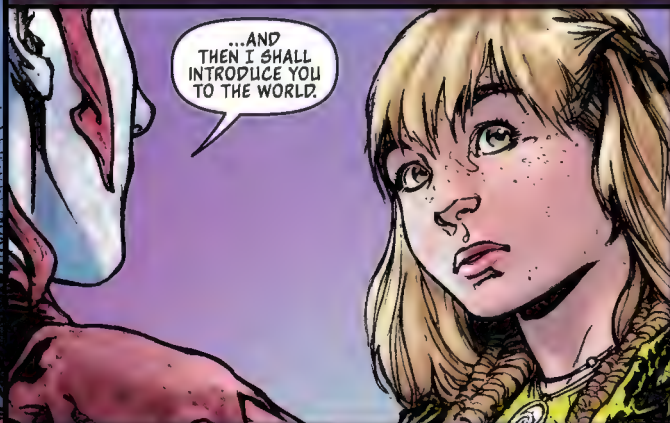
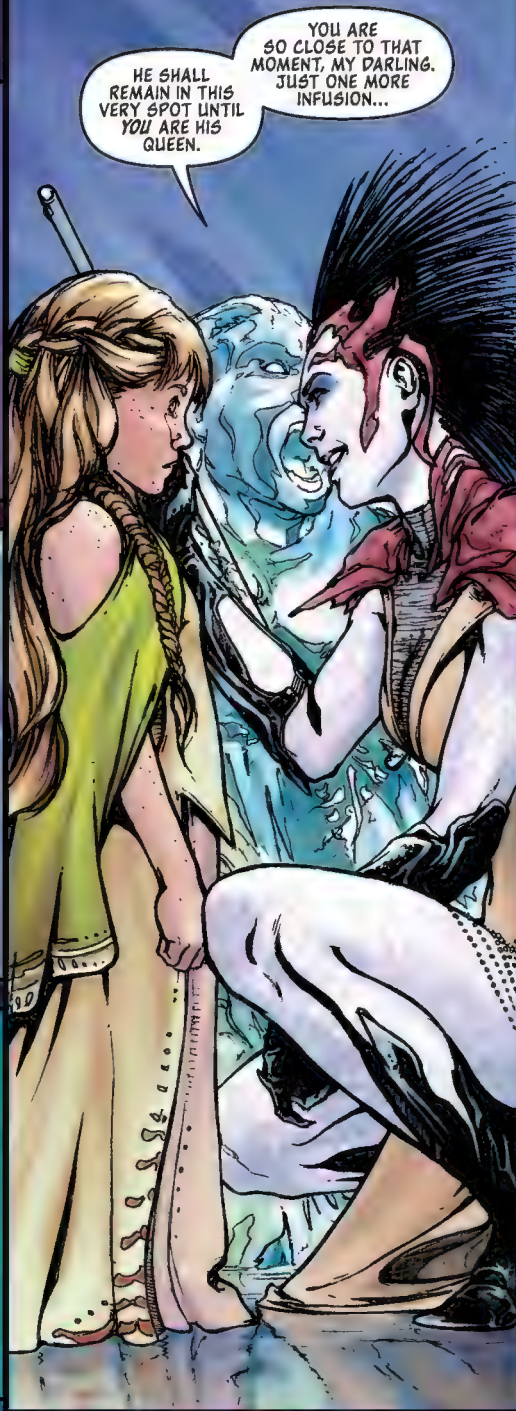
YES,
MOTHER?

DOESN'T
HE LOOK
WONDERFUL
HERE?

HE DOES,
MOTHER.

YOU
KNOW, I'VE
OFTEN THOUGHT
OF HIM AS MY
SON--

--PRINCE
KILLIAN.





WELCOME,
MY FRIENDS, TO
THE VOLNA!

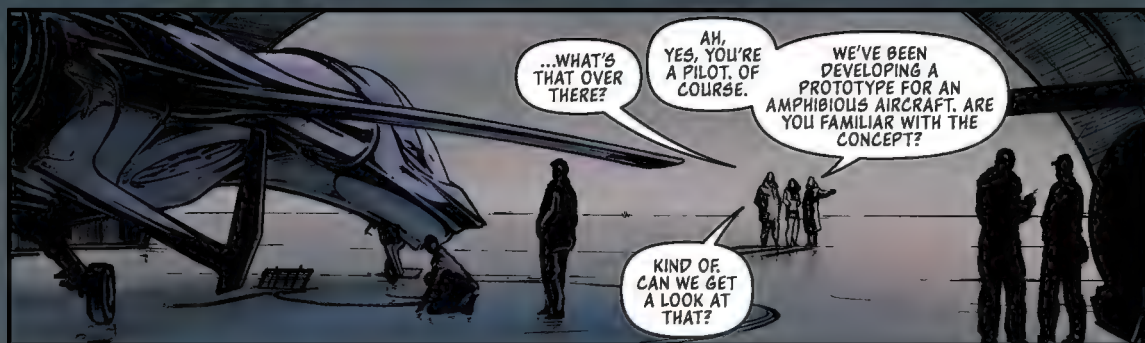
I'M SURE
YOU MUST BE TIRED
FROM THE LONG FLIGHT, BUT
PLEASE, INDULGE ME WITH
A QUICK TOUR OF THE
FACILITY FIRST.

WHY NOT?

IT'S AMAZING...AND MORE
THAN A BIT CREEPY, THAT
THE BLUE TECH HAS SPREAD
SO FAR, SO QUICKLY.

THESE PEOPLE NEVER
UNDERSTAND WHAT
FORCES THEY'RE
DEALING WITH...
UNTIL IT'S TOO LATE.

UM...



...WHAT'S
THAT OVER
THERE?

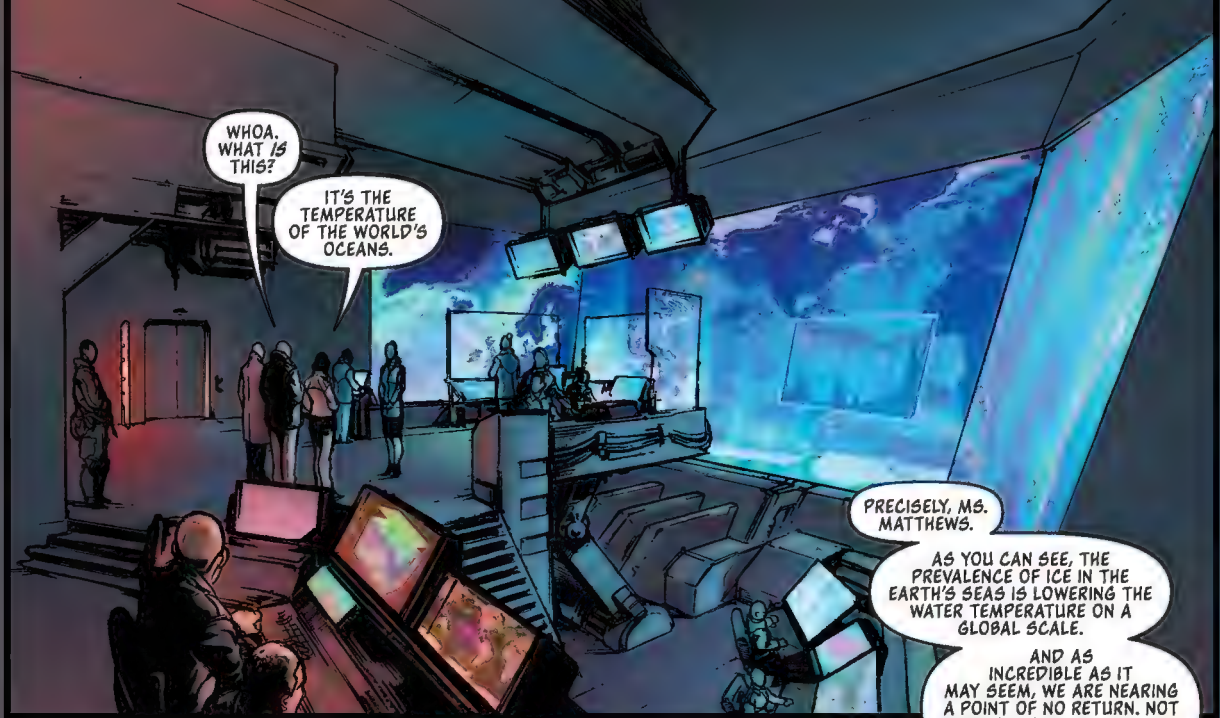
AH,
YES, YOU'RE
A PILOT. OF
COURSE.

WE'VE BEEN
DEVELOPING A
PROTOTYPE FOR AN
AMPHIBIOUS AIRCRAFT. ARE
YOU FAMILIAR WITH THE
CONCEPT?

KIND OF.
CAN WE GET
A LOOK AT
THAT?

IN DUE TIME,
MR. CALLOWAY. BUT FIRST,
THERE'S SOMETHING YOU MUST
SEE IMMEDIATELY.





WHOA.
WHAT IS
THIS?

IT'S THE
TEMPERATURE
OF THE WORLD'S
OCEANS.

PRECISELY, MS.
MATTHEWS.

AS YOU CAN SEE, THE
PREVALENCE OF ICE IN THE
EARTH'S SEAS IS LOWERING THE
WATER TEMPERATURE ON A
GLOBAL SCALE.

AND AS
INCREDIBLE AS IT
MAY SEEM, WE ARE NEARING
A POINT OF NO RETURN. NOT
MERELY IN OUR LIFETIME, BUT
WITHIN A FEW SHORT
WEEKS...

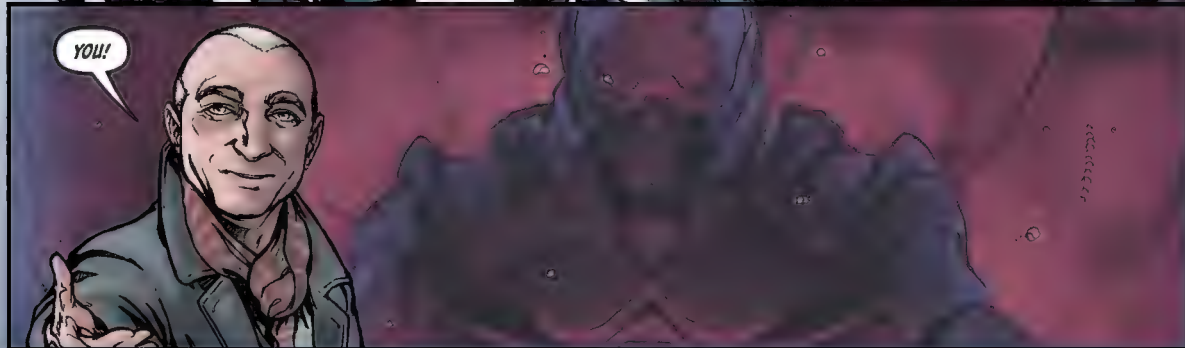
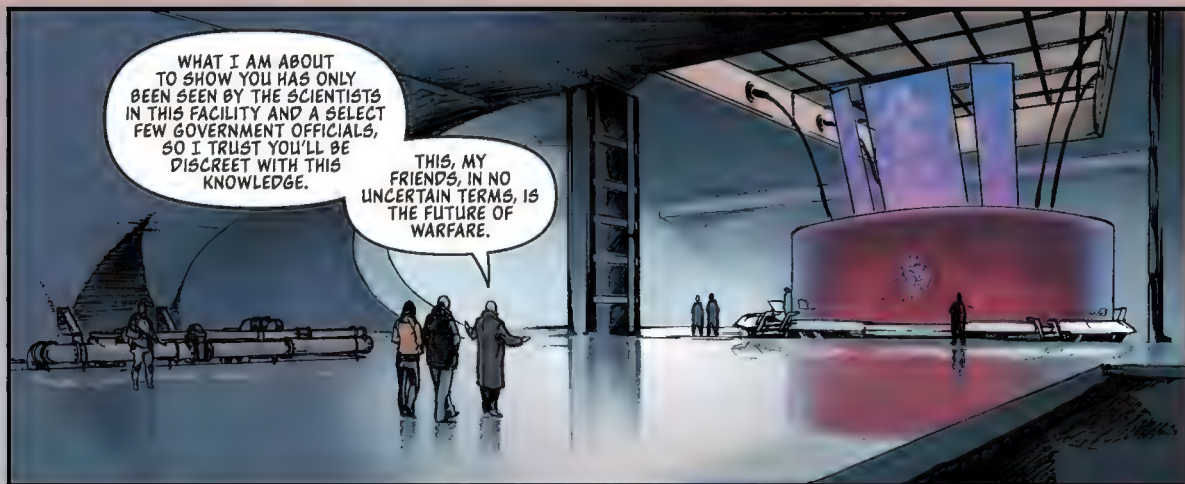
...WE WILL
BE WITNESS TO
AN EXTINCTION
EVENT.



WHY DID YOU
BRING US HERE,
LUZHIN? WHAT DO
YOU WANT ME
TO DO?

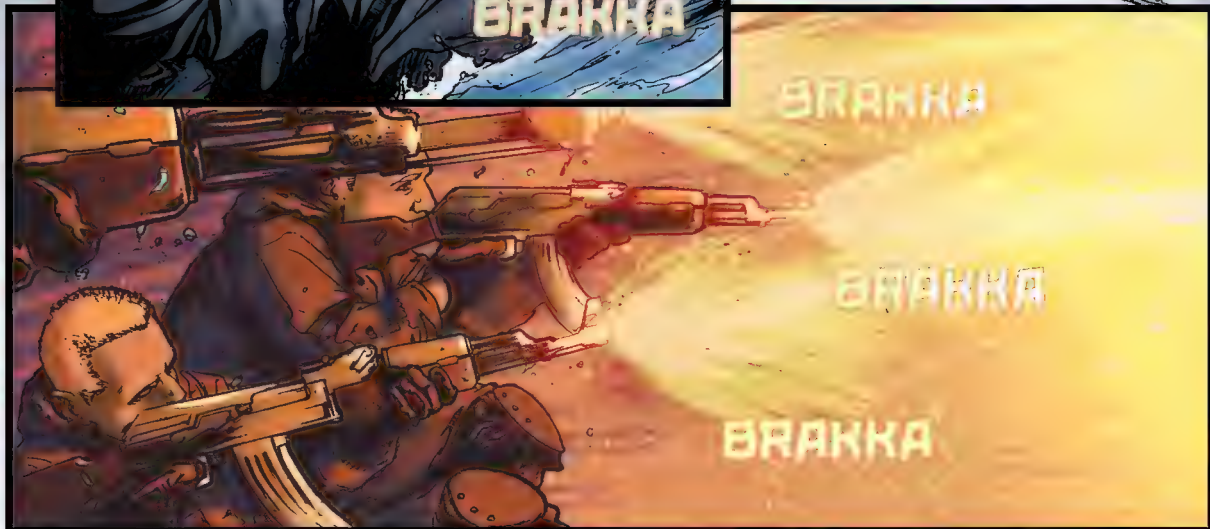
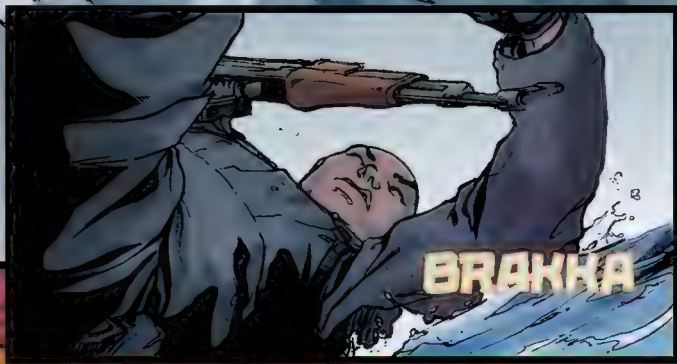


I WAS
HOPING YOU'D
ASK THAT.





* TRANSLATED
FROM RUSSIAN

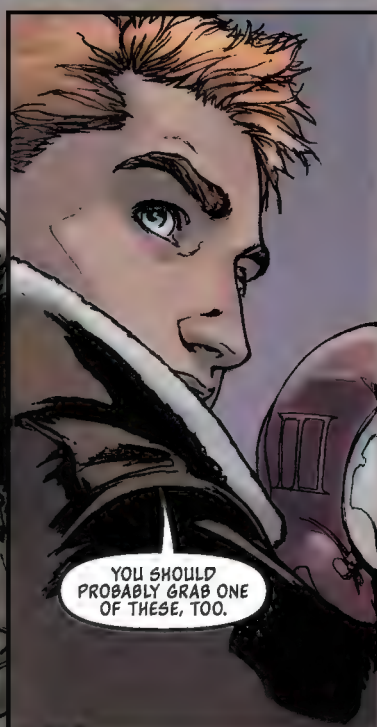


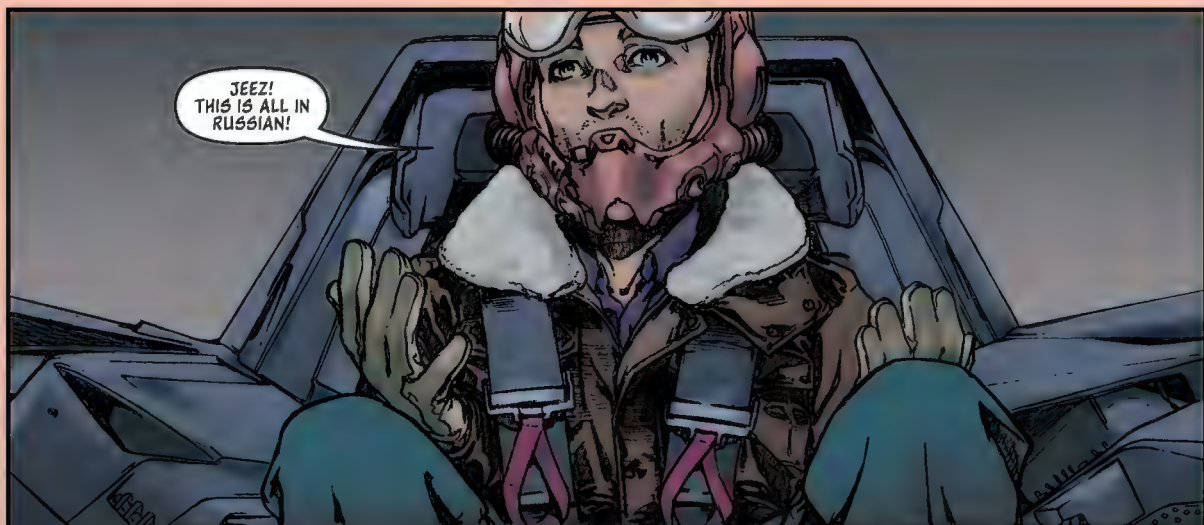


CHANCE,
STAY BEHIND
ME!

I'M NOT GOING
ANYWHERE!







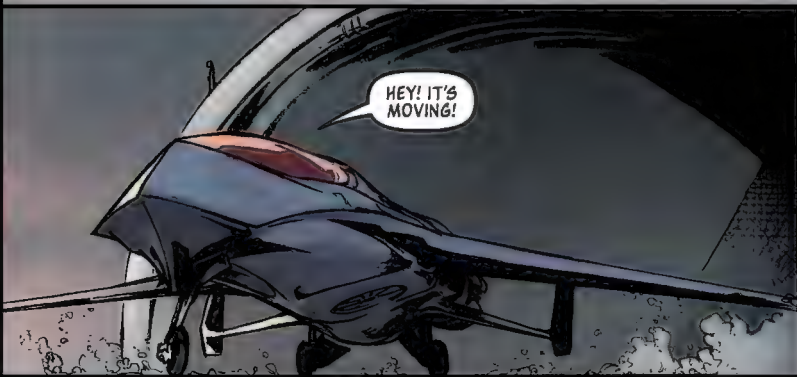
JEEZ!
THIS IS ALL IN
RUSSIAN!



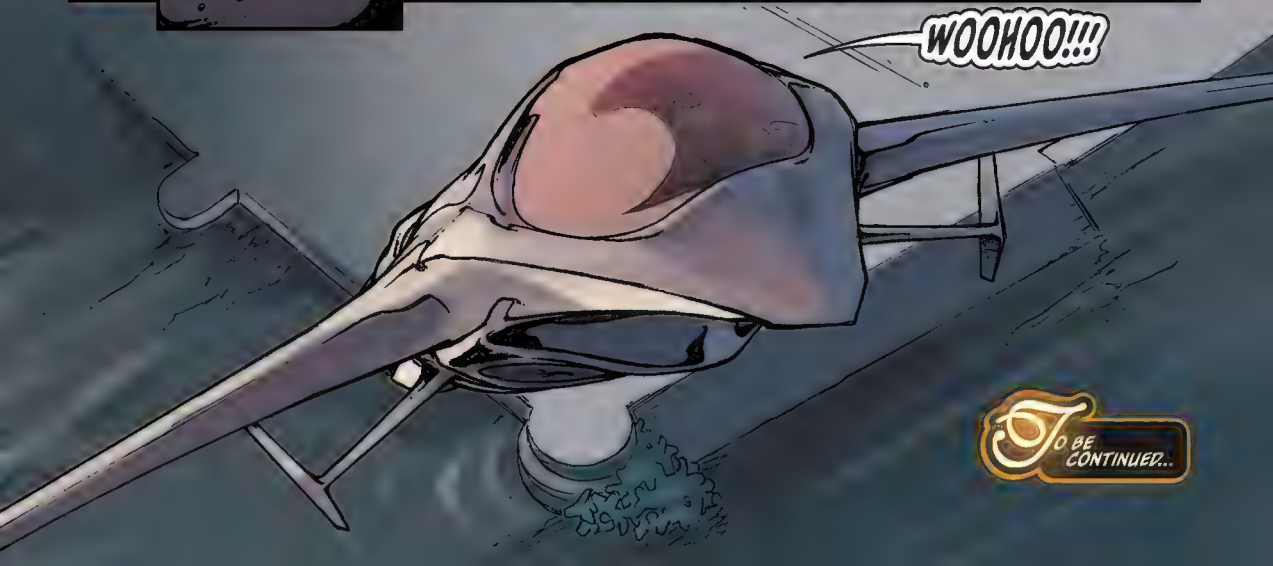
PROBABLY
BECAUSE IT'S
A RUSSIAN
PLANE.
WE'VE GOT
COMPANY.



ROGER
THAT. WELL, HERE
GOES...



HEY! IT'S
MOVING!



WOOHOO!!!

TO BE
CONTINUED...



david WOHL • alex KONAT • erick ARCINIEGA • josh REED

10
EPR
10

#6

COVER A

ALL NEW MICHAEL TURNER'S FATHOM





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ALL NEW MICHAEL TURNER'S FATHOM

10
FEB
10

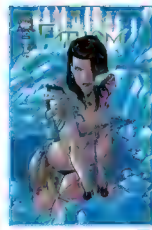
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COVER B





A



B



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script

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pencils

MARK ROSLAN
PETER STEIGERWALD
digital inks

ERICK ARCINIEGA
colors

JOSH REED
lettering



FATHOM

GOLD SACRIFICE

FATHOM CREATED BY MICHAEL TURNER
THE BLACK CO-CREATED BY MICHAEL TURNER AND PETER STEIGERWALD

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2 MILES NORTHEAST OF VLADIVOSTOK, RUSSIA...

<SPARROW TWO TO BASE. UNIDENTIFIED OBJECT IS IN SIGHT.>

<IT APPEARS TO BE SOME KIND OF EXPERIMENTAL AIRCRAFT WITH NO VISIBLE MARKINGS.>

<ROGER THAT, SPARROW TWO.>

TRANSLATED FROM RUSSIAN.



<ATTENTION UNIDENTIFIED AIRCRAFT, YOU ARE FLYING IN RUSSIAN AIRSPACE.>

<PLEASE IDENTIFY YOURSELF OR WE WILL BE FORCED TO ASSUME YOU'RE HOSTILE.>

<BASE, THIS IS SPARROW TWO. UNIDENTIFIED AIRCRAFT HAS FAILED TO RESPOND. REQUESTING PERMISSION TO ENGAGE.>

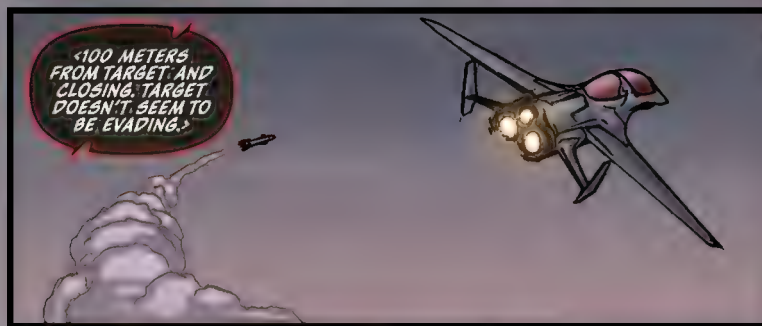
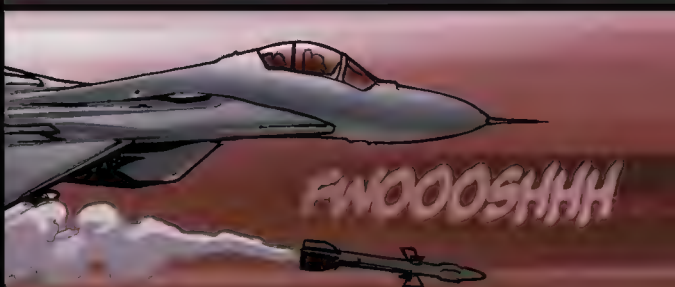
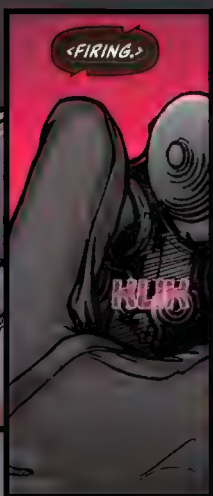
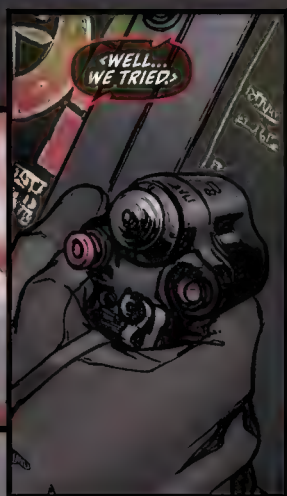


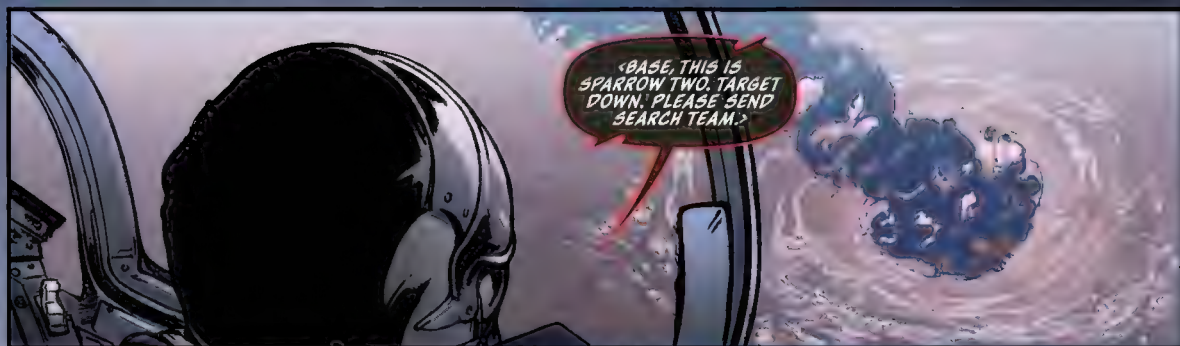
<PERMISSION GRANTED, SPARROW TWO.>

<WEAPONS SYSTEMS ARMED.>



<ATTENTION UNIDENTIFIED AIRCRAFT. THIS IS YOUR LAST WARNING. PLEASE RESPOND, OR WE WILL BE FORCED TO ACTION...>



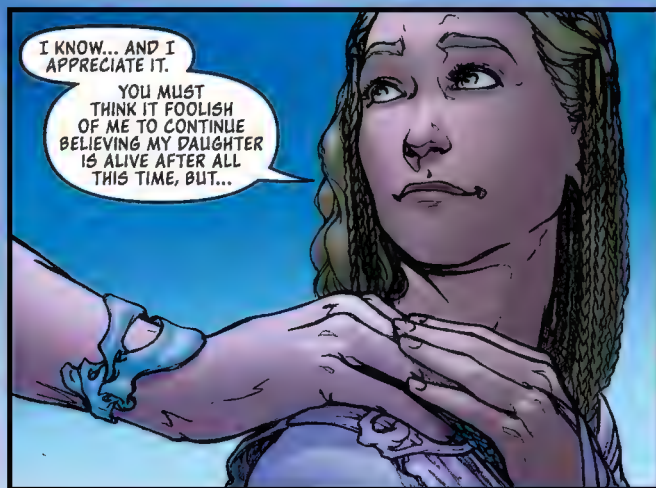
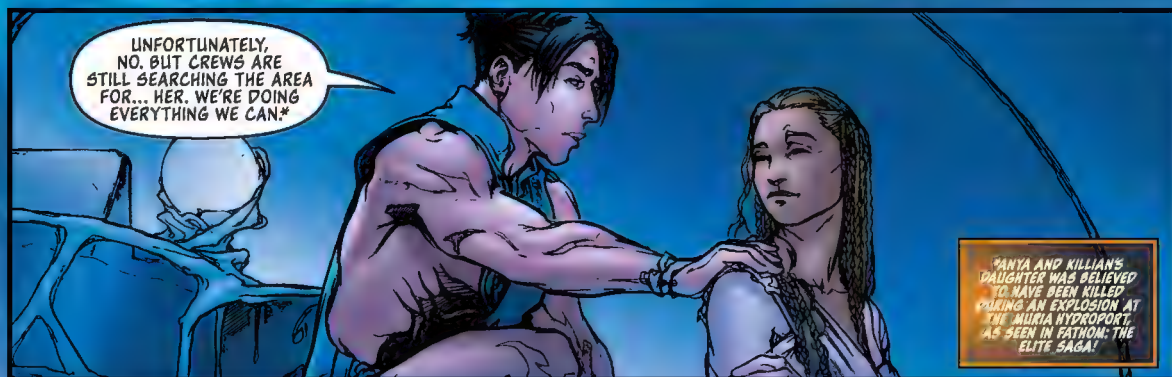


*CHANCE FLEW A BLUE TECH EXPERIMENTAL HUMERUSIBLE AIRCRAFT FOR THE U.S. NAVY WAY BACK IN FATHOM VOLUME ONE.



GENTLEMEN,
I'M AFRAID I'VE COME
TO YOU TODAY WITH
GRAVE NEWS...

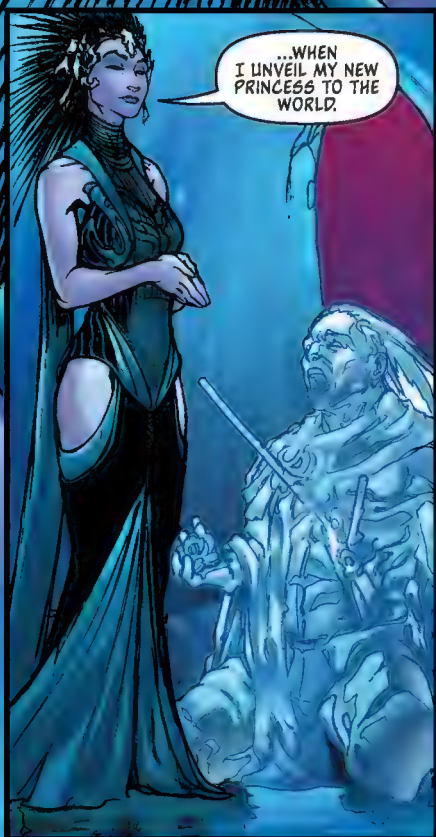






THIS IS
A GLORIOUS
TIME.

THE DAY
HAS FINALLY
ARRIVED...



...WHEN
I UNVEIL MY NEW
PRINCESS TO THE
WORLD.



THE PREPARATIONS
ARE COMPLETE,
YOUR MAJESTY.

VERY GOOD.



YOU
MUST BE VERY
PROUD.

I THANK YOU,
KILLIAN. I COULDN'T
HAVE DONE THIS
WITHOUT YOU.



NOT TO WORRY.
I'LL BE BACK SOON...
WITH A SURPRISE!



I NEVER THOUGHT
I'D BE COMING BACK
TO THE ARCTIC TO
FIND VANA AGAIN.

ARE YOU
SURE THIS IS THE
WAY? I'M F*#KING
FREEZING!

YEAH.

THEN AGAIN, I
NEVER THOUGHT
I'D SEE CHANCE
AGAIN, EITHER.

WE'RE
ALMOST
THERE.

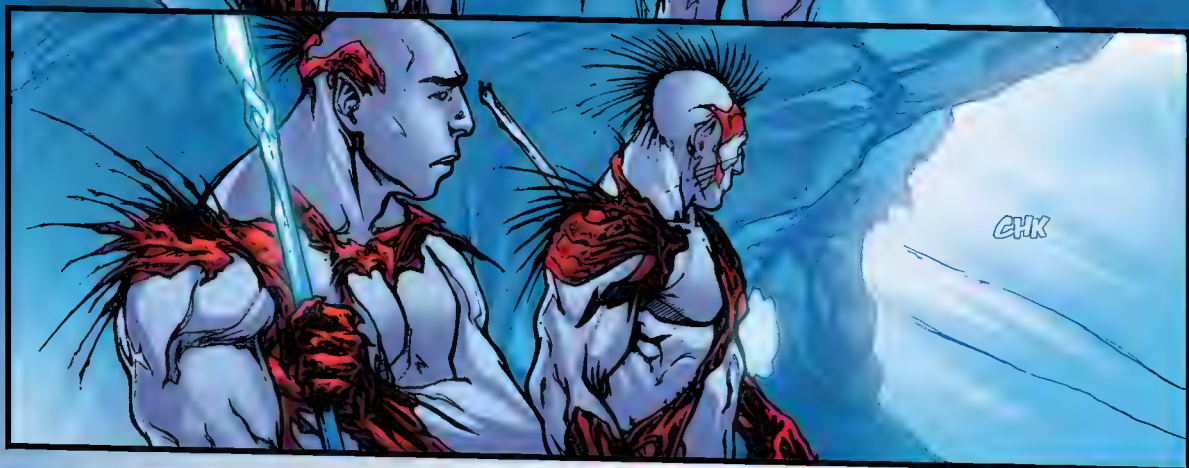
NOT SURE HOW I FEEL
ABOUT THAT ONE YET. NICE
TO HAVE HIM AROUND, BUT...

...SOME THINGS
ARE BETTER
DONE ALONE.

GET DOWN.

WHAT
SHOULD WE
DO?

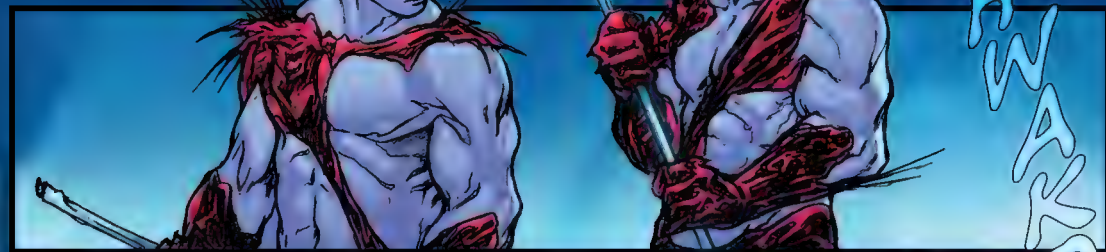
JUST
STAY PUT.



SHOULD WE
TELL HER?

I DON'T
THINK IT'S--

THWACKOOSS



YOU
KNOW WHAT,
ASPEN?



IT MUST BE DAYS SINCE
KILLIAN FIRST ARRIVED
HERE WITH HIS TEAM--
WHEN THEY WERE ROUTED
BY VANA AND HER MEN.

SHE WAS MERCIFUL TO HIS
SOLDIERS, BLESSING THEM
WITH A QUICK DEATH.

BUT FOR KILLIAN, THERE WAS
NO MERCY. AS SHE FROZE HIM
INTO A SOLID BLOCK OF ICE.

HE WONDERED IF THIS
WOULD FOREVER BE
HIS FUTURE, UNTIL A
DROP OF MOISTURE
FORMED ON HIM.

A DROPLET THAT HE
REALIZED HE COULD
MANIPULATE.

AH... PRINCE
KILLIAN. YOU'RE
LOOKING WELL,
TODAY.

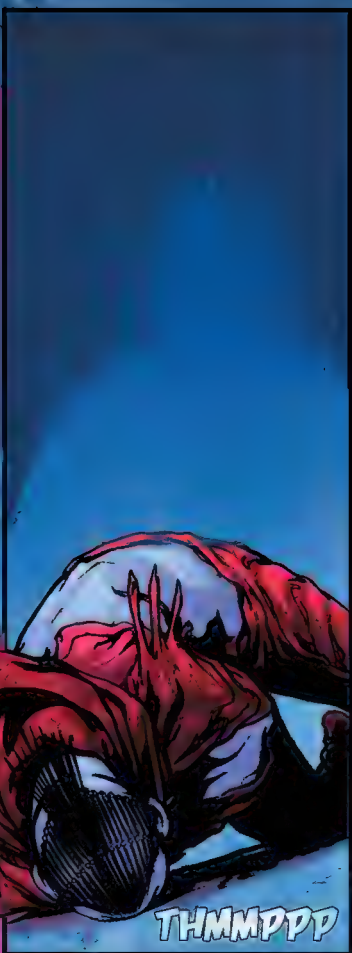
THE QUEEN
HAS ORDERED US
TO KEEP YOU ALIVE... SAYS
SHE HAS PLANS FOR
YOU.

BUT THE
BOYS AND I HAVE
BEEN THINKING, MAYBE
IT'S TIME YOU HAD A
LITTLE ACCIDENT.

COME TO
THINK OF IT, SHE'S
GONNA BE BUSY FOR
A WHILE, AND I KNOW
YOU'RE NOT GOING
ANYWHERE...

...SO
MAYBE IT'S
TIME YOU AND
I-- HNH???

SLURHHH





OH, MY DAUGHTER...



...MY PRINCESS.



I'VE NEVER BEEN MORE PROUD THAN I AM THIS MOMENT.



COME... THE TIME FOR PREPARATION IS OVER. YOUR TRANSFORMATION IS COMPLETE.



YES...

...NOW YOU
ARE TRULY *PRINCESS*
KANIA.







TODAY,
WE WILL
INTRODUCE
YOU TO THE
WORLD.



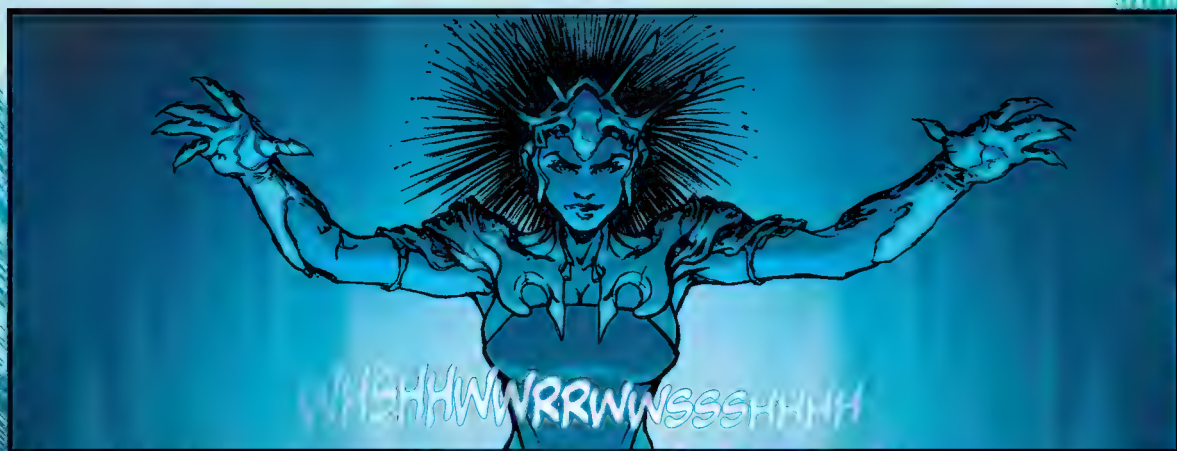
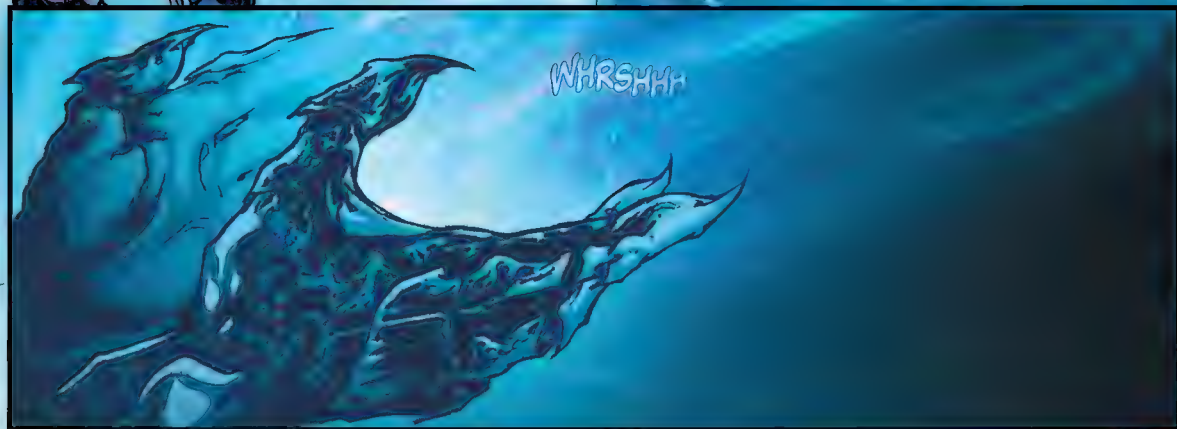
YOU, MY
DEAR, WILL MAKE
THEM ALL TREMBLE
BEFORE YOU.



GUARDS, YOUR
ONLY TASK IS TO
PROTECT HER LIFE...
WITH YOUR OWN,
IF NECESSARY.



OH, YOU
NEED NOT WORRY
ABOUT MY LIFE,
MOTHER.

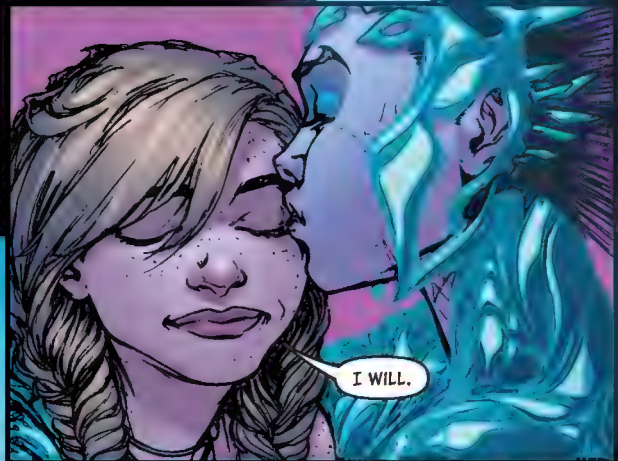




...WE ARE
READY.



SWEET
KANIA, MAKE
YOUR MOTHER
PROUD.



I WILL.



GOOD-BYE,
MOTHER.



FOR NOW.



ALIVE...



I'M...
ALIVE.



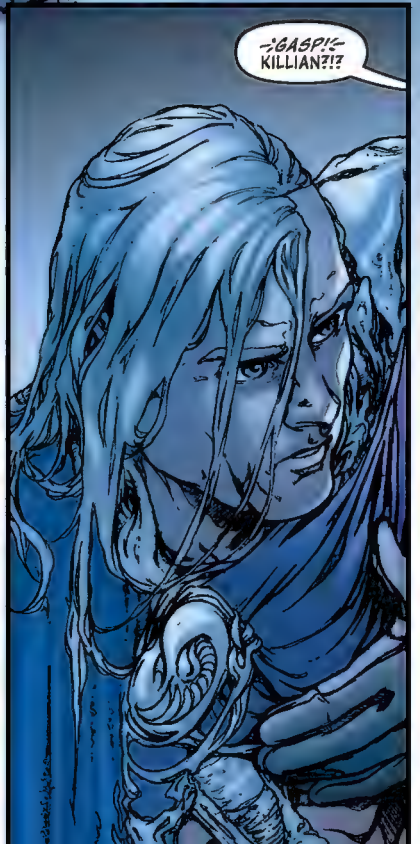
MUST...



...GET
OUT.

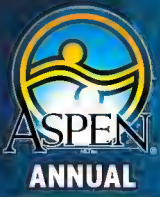


I--



~GASP!~
KILLIAN?!!





#1
2014
COVER A

MICHAEL TURNER'S FATHOM ANNUAL

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Josh **REED**

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Dennis **CALERO**
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Josh **REED**



MICHAEL
TURNER

FATHOM ANNUAL 2014

There are TWO worlds...

...ONE ABOVE

...and ONE BELOW

FATHOM

PART ONE "PAST IMPERFECT"

DAVID WOHL
script

DENNIS CALERO
pencils & inks & colors

JOSH REED
letters

PART TWO "OUT OF BODY EXPERIENCE"

NEI RUFFINO
script & pencils
inks & colors

JOSH REED
letters

PART THREE "BETTER LEFT UNSAID"

VINCE HERNANDEZ
script

JORDAN GUNDERSON
pencils & inks

JASEN SMITH
colors

JOSH REED
letters

PART FOUR "DISCOVERY"

MICHAEL TURNER & BILL O'NEIL
plot

SCOTT LOBDELL
script

MICHEAL TURNER
pencils

JOE WEEMS V
JONATHAN SIBAL
inks

JONATHAN D. SMITH
PETER STEIGERWALD
colors

JOSH REED
letters



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"PAST IMPERFECT"

DAVID WOHL
script

DENNIS CALERO
pencils, inks & colors

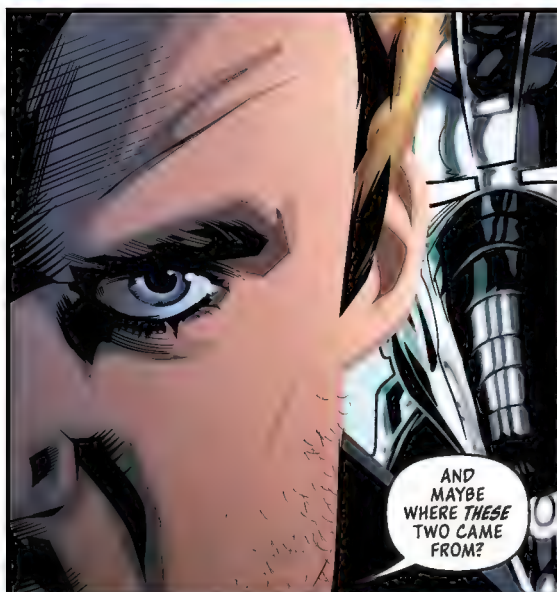
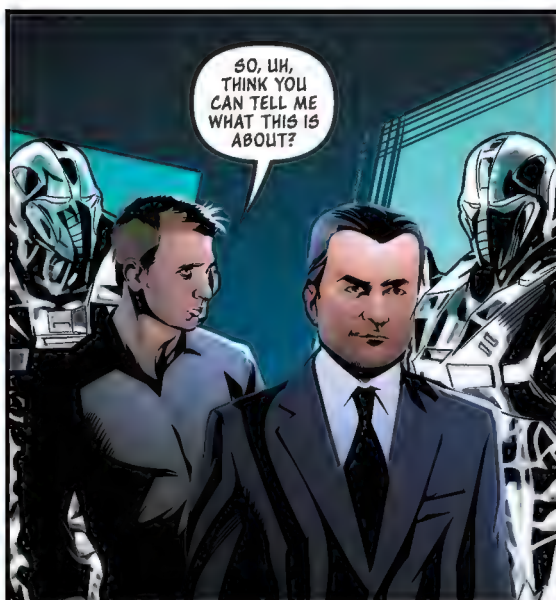
JOSH REED
lettering

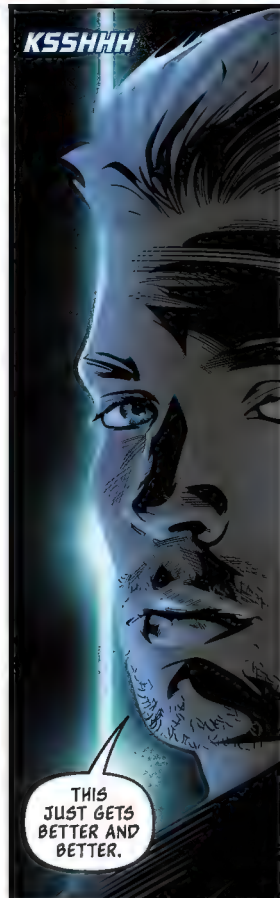
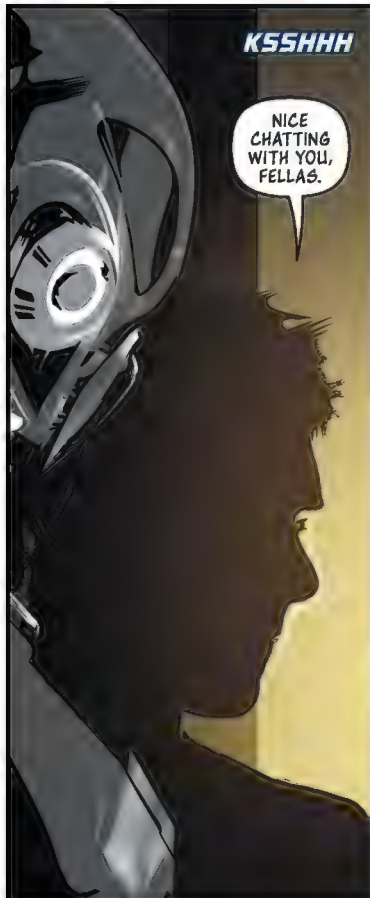
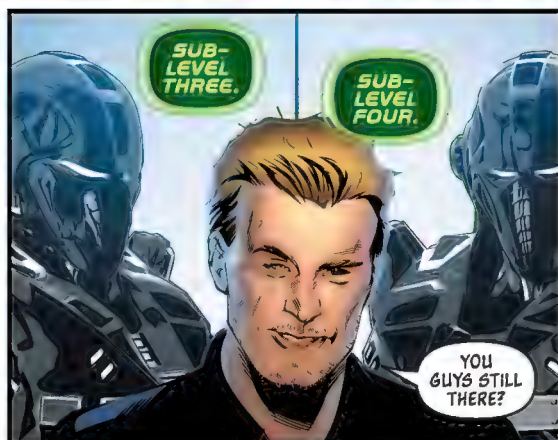
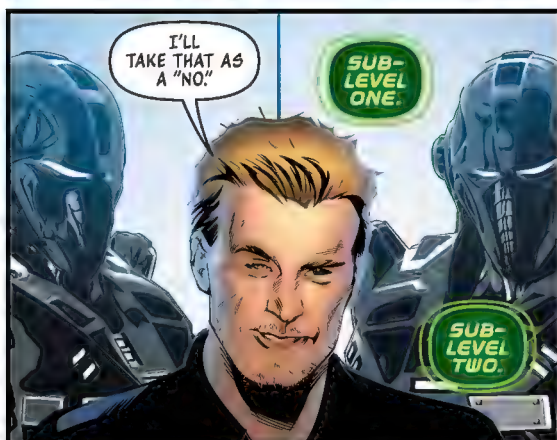
FATHOM ANNUAL

PART ONE









CHIK

OKAY--I GET
IT. I'M SUFFICIENTLY
INTIMIDATED.

CAN WE
JUST GET ON
WITH THIS?

PLEASE SIT
DOWN, MISTER
CALLOWAY.

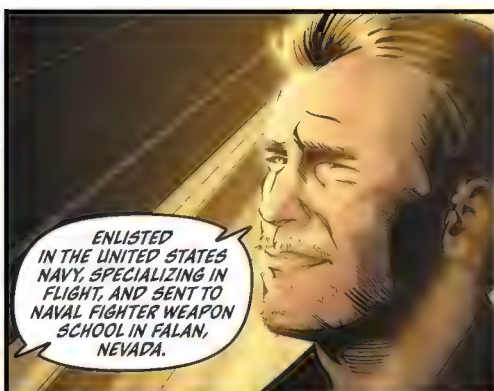
HERE?
GUESS
SO...

SO...

...CAN YOU
TELL ME WHY
I'M HERE?



CHANCE
CALLOWAY.

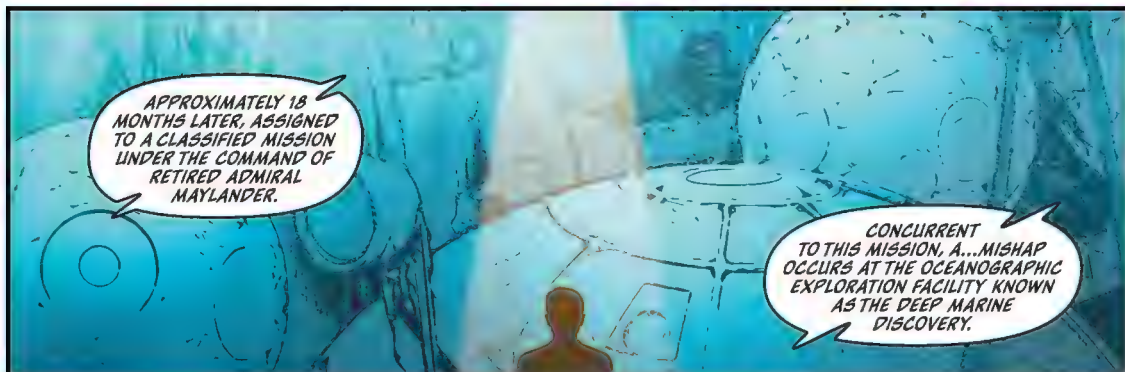


ENLISTED
IN THE UNITED STATES
NAVY, SPECIALIZING IN
FLIGHT, AND SENT TO
NAVAL FIGHTER WEAPON
SCHOOL IN FALAN,
NEVADA.



RECEIVING TWO
COMMENDATIONS
FOR SKILL AS WELL
AS ONE REPRIMAND
FOR RECKLESS
BEHAVIOR.

NONETHELESS,
ASSIGNED TO POINT
MUGU, CALIFORNIA FOR
NAVAL TEST PILOT
SCHOOL.



APPROXIMATELY 18
MONTHS LATER, ASSIGNED
TO A CLASSIFIED MISSION
UNDER THE COMMAND OF
RETIRED ADMIRAL
MAYLANDER.

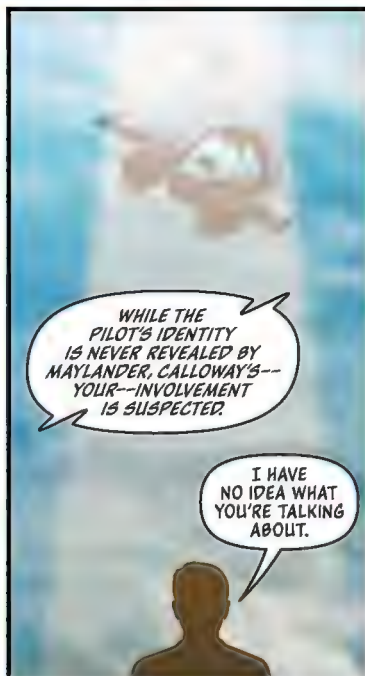
CONCURRENT
TO THIS MISSION, A...MISHAP
OCCURS AT THE OCEANOGRAPHIC
EXPLORATION FACILITY KNOWN
AS THE DEEP MARINE
DISCOVERY.



WHILE NO
OFFICIAL REPORT IS
FILED, IT IS BELIEVED THAT
AN EXPERIMENTAL AMPHIBIOUS
AIRCRAFT IS FIRED UPON BY
AN UNIDENTIFIED
CRAFT...

...AND WHILE
RETLIATING, AN ERRANT
MISSILE STRIKES THE D.M.D.,
CAUSING SEVERE
DAMAGE.

AMONG
THE INJURED IS
A MARINE BIOLOGIST,
ASPEN MATTHEWS--
EVENTUALLY DISCOVERED
TO BE A MEMBER OF
THE RACE OF MARINE
HUMANOID'S KNOWN
AS THE BLUE.



WHILE THE
PILOT'S IDENTITY
IS NEVER REVEALED BY
MAYLANDER, CALLOWAY'S--
YOUR--INVOLVEMENT
IS SUSPECTED.

I HAVE
NO IDEA WHAT
YOU'RE TALKING
ABOUT.



WE BELIEVE THAT YOU DO, MISTER CALLOWAY. AS I'M SURE YOU WON'T DENY THAT YOU AND MS. MATTHEWS HAVE A...RELATIONSHIP.

WE ALSO HAVE IT ON GOOD AUTHORITY THAT YOU ARE ONE OF THE FEW PEOPLE IN THE WORLD WHO HAVE HAD PERSONAL EXPERIENCE WITH THIS SO-CALLED BLUE TECHNOLOGY.

TECHNOLOGY THAT, AT THIS MOMENT, IS PROLIFERATING ACROSS THE WORLD AS NATIONS ATTEMPT TO EXPLOIT IT IN SECRET, HEEDLESS OF THE CONSEQUENCES OF THEIR ACTIONS.

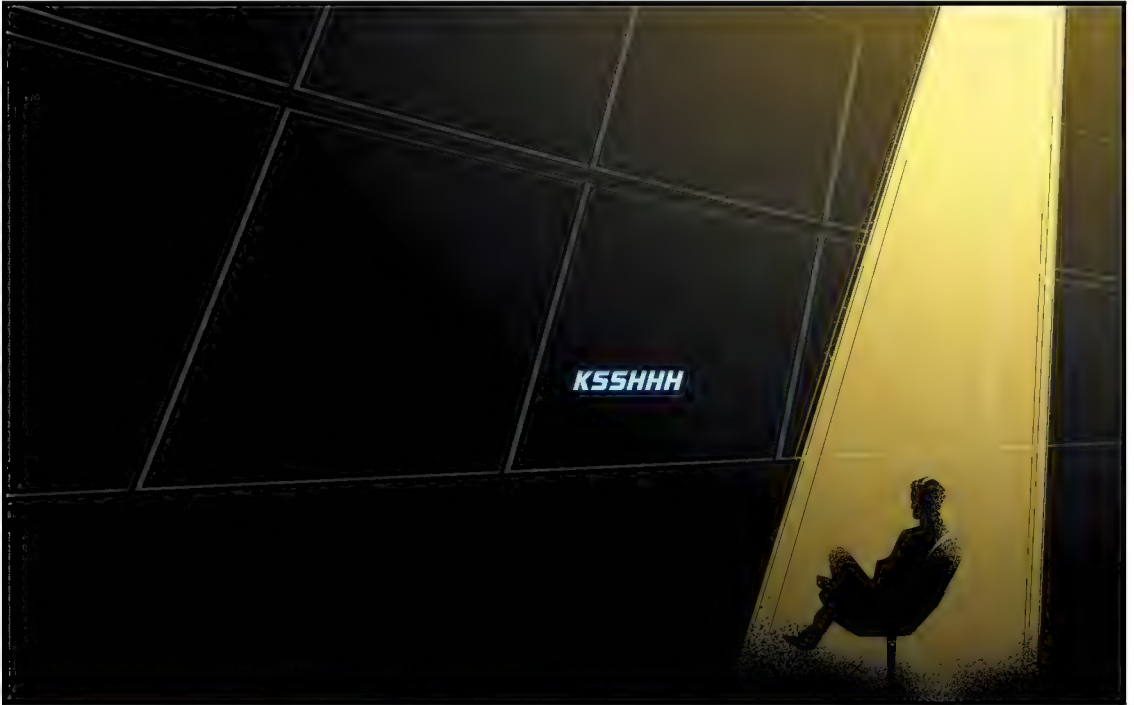
JUST RECENTLY, SPY SATELLITES NEAR SIBERIA TRACKED SOME SORT OF AMPHIBIOUS AIRCRAFT IN RUSSIAN AIRSPACE, AND RADIO CHATTER INDICATES IT HAD BEEN STOLEN.

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA OF THE DANGER THIS COULD CAUSE TO NATIONAL SECURITY? TO THE WORLD'S SECURITY?

UNAUTHORIZED POSSESSION OR USE OF IS CONSIDERED AN ACT OF TREASON.

SO NOW I ASK YOU, MISTER CALLOWAY, ARE YOU IN POSSESSION OF ANY OBJECT CONSISTING OF BLUE TECHNOLOGY?

SERIOUSLY, I NEVER EVEN HEARD OF THE STUFF UNTIL TODAY. DAMNED SCARY IF YOU ASK ME.





**CLIK**

WHSSSHHHHH

NEEDLESS TO SAY, HE
MADE IT OUT ALIVE...

WITH A LITTLE PARTING
GIFT HE SNAGGED ALONG
THE WAY, IN RUSSIA.

**GROUP'S
HERE!**

BRING 'EM
ON!

“OUT OF BODY EXPERIENCE”

NEI RUFFINO
script

NEI RUFFINO
pencils, inks & colors

JOSH REED
lettering

FATHOM ANNUAL PART TWO





SOMETIMES IT FEELS LIKE
I'M SOMETHING DIFFERENT,
YET COMPLETELY THE SAME.

LIKE THIS IS SOME HOLLOW
BODY THAT HOSTS RESIDENCE
TO A SCREAMING ENTITY
CRYING OUT FROM INSIDE,
ONLY WANTING TO BE HEARD.*

*SEE FATHOM
VOLUME FOUR.



ASPEN,
IT'S LIKE I CAN'T
TOUCH THE WORLD.
I DON'T LIVE IN IT,
ANYMORE.

BUT IT'S
THERE.



AND I'M JUST ACROSS THE
ROOM STARING AT IT, NOT
UNDERSTANDING THE
LANGUAGE THAT IT'S TRYING
TO TALK TO ME WITH.



WHEN I TRY TO LEARN THE
LANGUAGE IT COMES OUT
AS GIBBERISH, NO MATTER
HOW HARD I TRY.

JUDES,
THAT IS
NONSENSE.

LET'S
GET IT OUT
OF YOUR HEAD.
TELL ME WHAT
HAPPENED.





...

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU!

WHOA-- EASY!

YOU KNOW WHAT...



...DONT CALL ME AGAIN.



OH, BELIEVE ME, I WON'T!



NUTJOB.

NEVER FAILS.

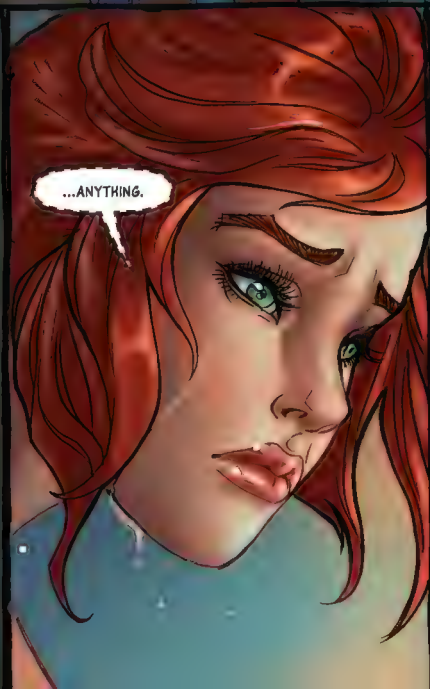
STARTS OUT WELL, THEN...

EEEEYAAAAAHH!

HEY, ARE YOU OKAY?

??!!
LET ME GO!

AFTER I RAN OUT OF THE BAR, THINGS MADE LESS AND LESS SENSE, AND I JUST LOST CONTROL. AGAIN.





I GUESS...
I DON'T KNOW
WHO I AM ANYMORE,
OR WHERE MY
PLACE IS.

JUDITH, AFTER
EVERYTHING YOU'VE
BEEN THROUGH... IT'S
UNDERSTANDABLE.

SOMETIMES
YOU HAVE TO
FIND THE WORLD
IN YOURSELF..

...BEFORE
YOU CAN FIND
YOURSELF IN
THE WORLD.

A comic book panel featuring a woman with long, dark, wavy hair and blue eyes. She is wearing a white tank top and has her right hand extended, holding a glowing, iridescent, circular object. The background is a cloudy sky. In the bottom right corner, there is a large, close-up inset of her face, showing her eyes and mouth in detail.

ASPEN, WITH HER
WARM HEART AND
COLD HANDS...

YOU DESERVE
PEACE, AND I AM
RIGHT HERE WITH
YOU.

...PUTTING THE FIRE
OUT AND QUIETING
THE DIN WITHIN ME.



BETTER?

...

THAT'S MY
DREAMS LIKE A
REAL, FANCY
ARTIST.

SOMETIMES WHEN
YOU LOSE YOUR WAY,
YOU FIND YOURSELF

AHAHAHAHA!

THE END

"BETTER LEFT UNSAID"

VINCE HERNANDEZ
script

JORDAN GUNDERSON
pencils & inks

JASEN SMITH
colors

JOSH REED
lettering

FATHOM ANNUAL

PART THREE





EVERY DAY I'M REMINDED
THAT I HAVEN'T SEEN IT ALL.

CASE IN POINT: THIS CITY THAT ONCE
PROBABLY FLOURISHED IN ITS DAY,
BUT NOW IS A MEMORY TRAPPED IN
TIME, ONLY TO BE DISCOVERED BY
THOSE BOLD ENOUGH TO TRY.



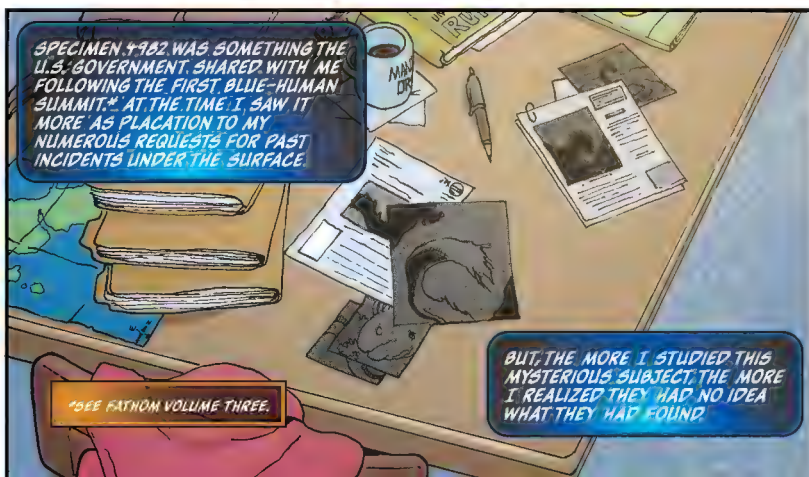
I WOULDN'T CALL
MYSELF BOLD.

TOKYO, JAPAN.

24 HOURS EARLIER.



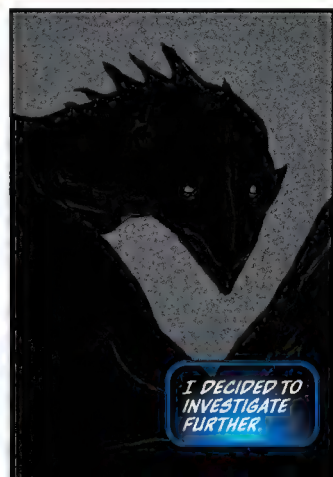
MAYBE JUST...
INTRIGUER.



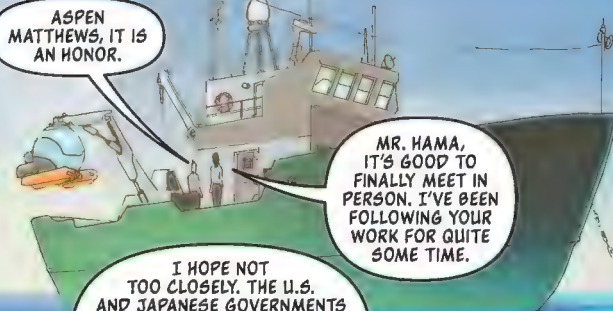
SPECIMEN #982 WAS SOMETHING THE
U.S. GOVERNMENT SHARED WITH ME
FOLLOWING THE FIRST BLUE-HUMAN
SUMMIT. AT THE TIME I SAW IT
MORE AS PLACATION TO MY
NUMEROUS REQUESTS FOR PAST
INCIDENTS UNDER THE SURFACE.

*SEE FATHOM VOLUME THREE.

BUT, THE MORE I STUDIED THIS
MYSTERIOUS SUBJECT, THE MORE
I REALIZED THEY HAD NO IDEA
WHAT THEY HAD FOUND.



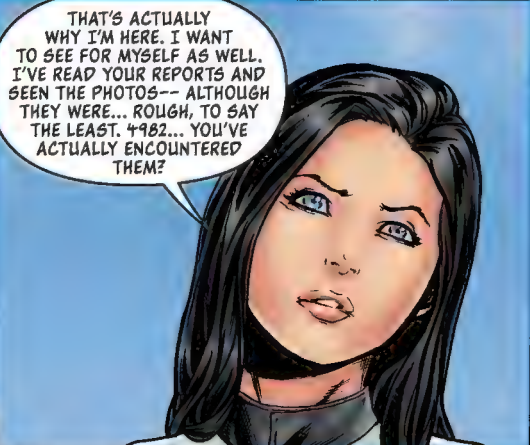
I DECIDED TO
INVESTIGATE
FURTHER.



ASPEN
MATTHEWS, IT IS
AN HONOR.

MR. HAMA,
IT'S GOOD TO
FINALLY MEET IN
PERSON. I'VE BEEN
FOLLOWING YOUR
WORK FOR QUITE
SOME TIME.

I HOPE NOT
TOO CLOSELY. THE U.S.
AND JAPANESE GOVERNMENTS
HAVE NOT EXACTLY WELCOMED
US WITH OPEN ARMS. ALTHOUGH,
THEY QUICKLY CHANGED THEIR
TUNE ONCE THEY HEARD OF
WHAT WE THINK WE HAVE
DISCOVERED.



THAT'S ACTUALLY
WHY I'M HERE. I WANT
TO SEE FOR MYSELF AS WELL.
I'VE READ YOUR REPORTS AND
SEEN THE PHOTOS-- ALTHOUGH
THEY WERE... ROUGH, TO SAY
THE LEAST. 4982... YOU'VE
ACTUALLY ENCOUNTERED
THEM?



TRULY, THIS SPECIMEN IS
MUCH MORE THAN SIMPLY ANOTHER
BREED OF FISH. IF WE COULD STUDY
THEM, EXAMINE THEM, IT COULD EXPLAIN
THINGS ABOUT THE DEEP WE'VE NEVER
BEEN ABLE TO ANSWER. THINGS THAT
SCIENCE COULD BENEFIT FROM BEYOND
OUR IMAGINATION. I'M GLAD WE'RE NOT
THE ONLY ONES WHO COULD SEE THIS. I
WAS SHOCKED WHEN YOU REACHED OUT
TO US. I HAD THOUGHT YOUR DAYS
IN THE WATER WERE BEHIND YOU.



WELL...
NOT EXACTLY.

AS YOU CAN SEE,
OUR S.O.V.* DID THE BEST
SHE COULD, BUT THE PRESSURE DOWN
THERE IS UNLIKE ANYTHING WE COULD'VE
ANTICIPATED. OUR READINGS TELL US WE
SHOULD BE FINE, BUT THE DAMAGE WE
ENCOUNTERED TOLD US OTHERWISE.
IT'S ALMOST AS IF THE WATER IS
KEEPING US OUT.

THAT'S
WHERE I
COME IN.

*SUBMERSIBLE
OBSERVATION
VEHICLE



THAT'S EASIER
SAID THAN DONE, AS
I'VE COME TO FIND OUT. BUT,
I'M STILL A CONSERVATIONIST
AT HEART. IF THIS IS INDEED A
NEW SPECIMEN-- I WANT
TO USE MY GIFTS TO
PROTECT IT.

Now.

I WISH I COULD USE MY POWERS TO MAKE THIS SILLY CAMERA RECORD PROPERLY.

ASPEN, OUR READINGS INDICATE YOU'VE REACHED THE STAGING POINT. OUR POINT OF CONTACT WAS ABOUT 25 KILOMETERS BENEATH THESE RUINS. BUT, WE'RE STILL NOT TRANSMITTING ANY VIDEO. SEE WHAT YOU CAN DO.

YEAH. THANK YOU... I KNOW.

MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN CHARITABLE DONATIONS AND YOU GUYS SKIMP ON THE CAMERA.

FINALLY.

OKAY-- WE'RE GETTING SOMETHING. YES.

WAIT--WE SEE SOMETHING. AT YOUR 12 O'CLOCK. THERE-- NOW!

OF COURSE, IT COULDN'T BE THE AUDIO THAT'S BREAKING UP.

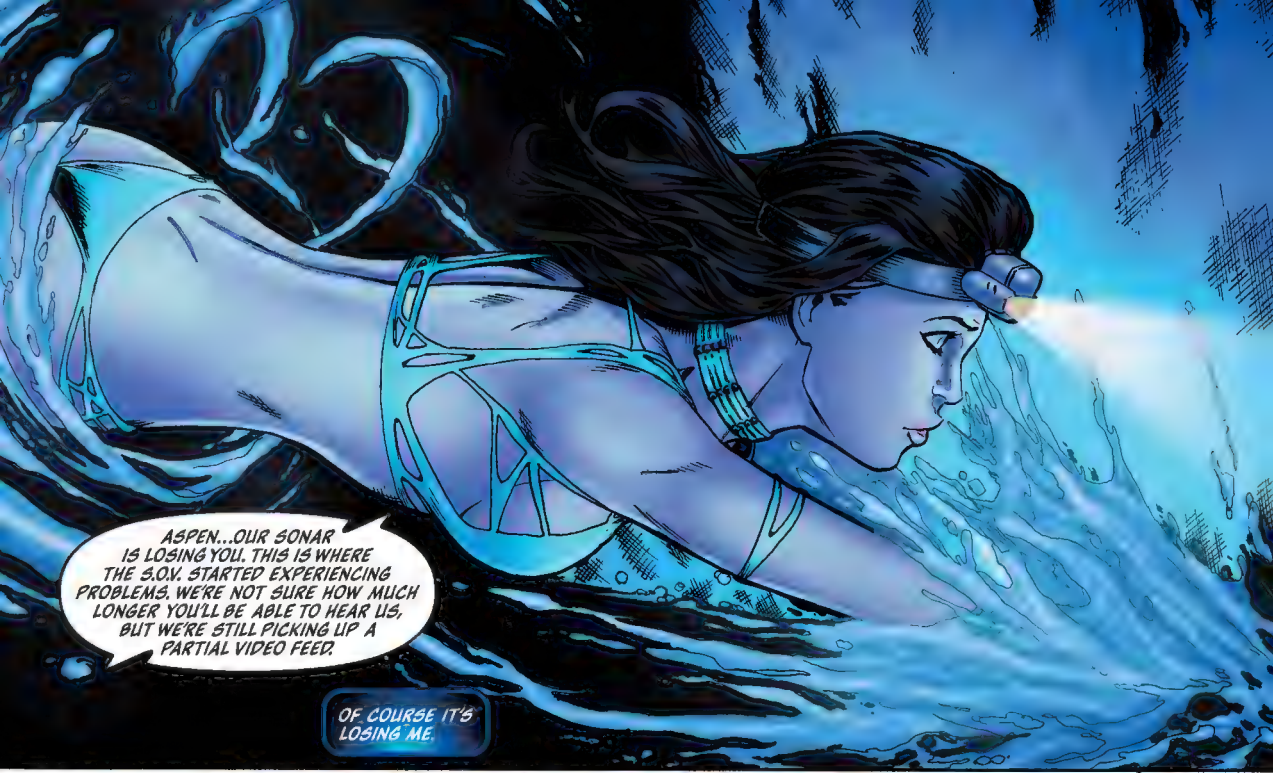
TIME TO GIVE THEM A SHOW.

THEIR S.O.V. MAY BE UNABLE
TO WITHSTAND THE PRESSURE
OF THESE DEPTHS, BUT TO ME,
THIS FEELS LIKE HOME.



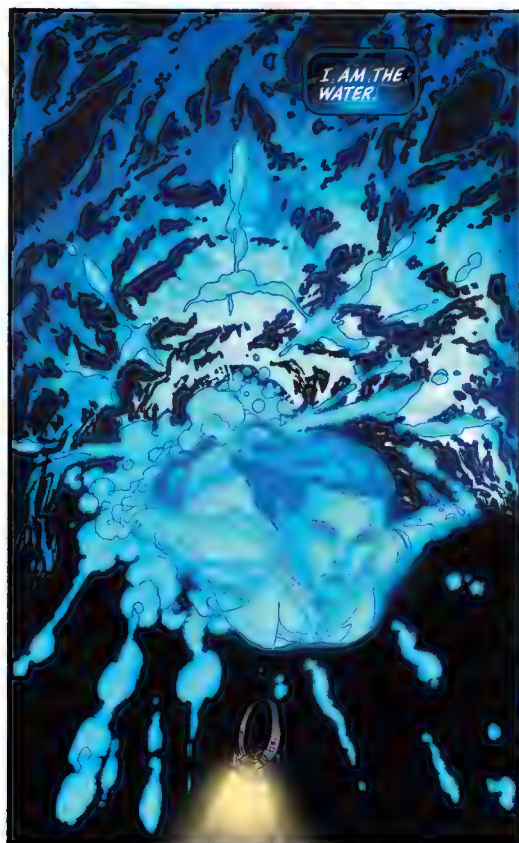
THE QUESTION IS--
WILL IT BE A PLEASANT
HOMECOMING?

ASPEN?

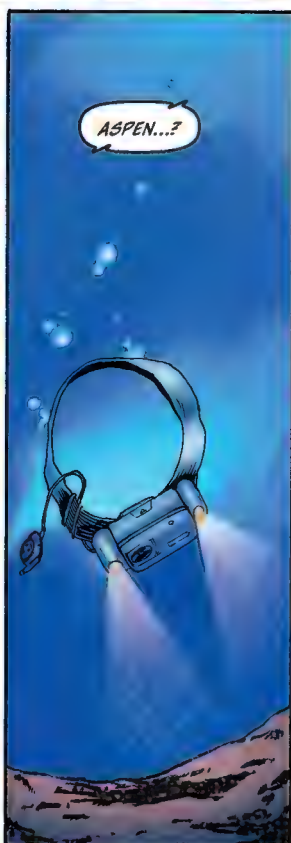


ASPEN...OUR SONAR
IS LOSING YOU. THIS IS WHERE
THE S.O.V. STARTED EXPERIENCING
PROBLEMS. WE'RE NOT SURE HOW MUCH
LONGER YOU'LL BE ABLE TO HEAR US,
BUT WE'RE STILL PICKING UP A
PARTIAL VIDEO FEED.

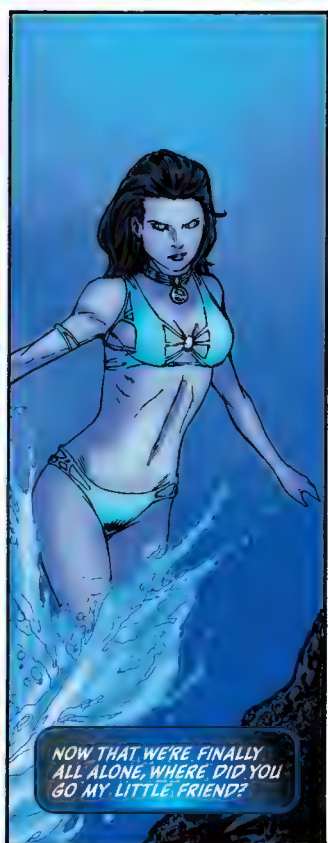
OF COURSE IT'S
LOSING ME.



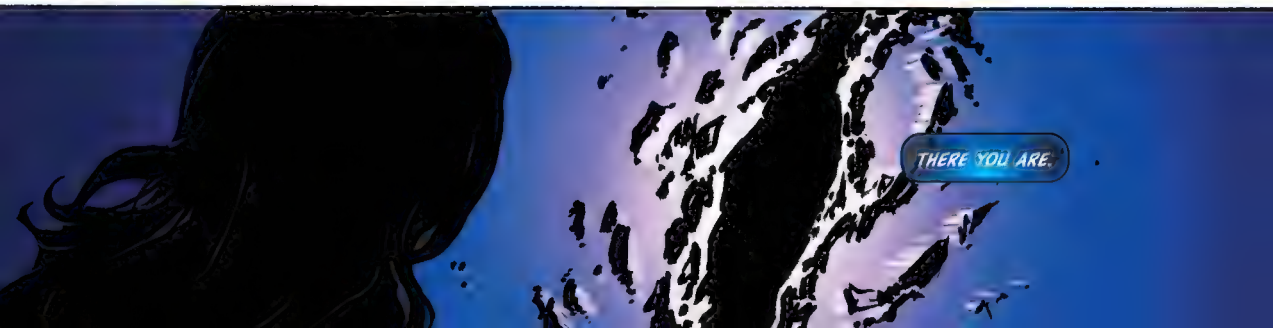
I AM THE
WATER.



ASPEN...?



NOW THAT WE'RE FINALLY
ALL ALONE, WHERE DID YOU
GO MY LITTLE FRIEND?

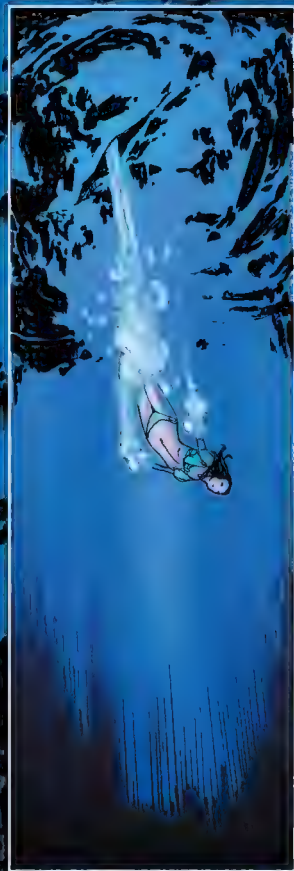
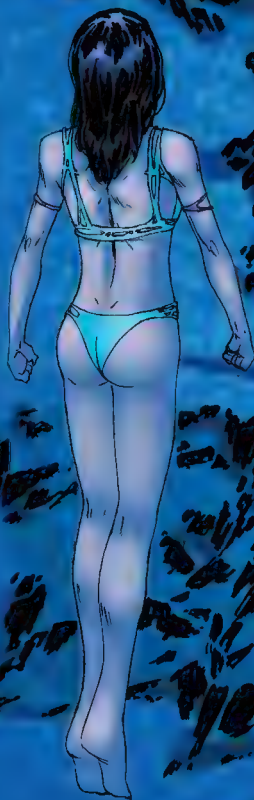


THERE YOU ARE.



WHOA.

HERE GOES
EVERYTHING.



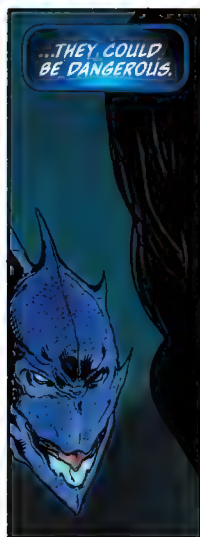
I'VE SEEN THINGS BENEATH THE
SURFACE THAT THE AVERAGE HUMAN
WOULD MARVEL AT. THINGS I CAN'T
EXPLAIN, EVEN IF I TRIED BUT, THIS...



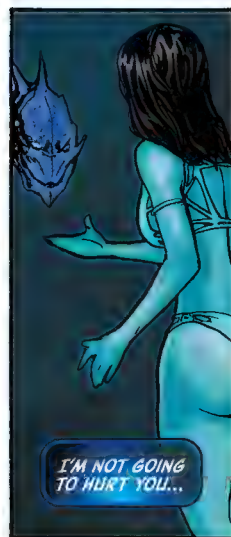
THIS IS A
NEW ONE.



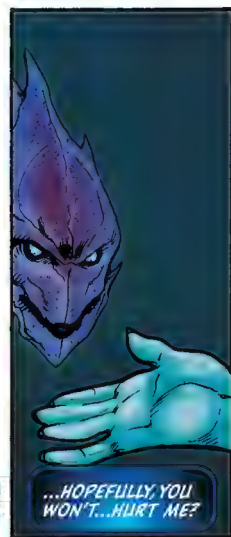
YABZ...OKAY,
STAY CALM...



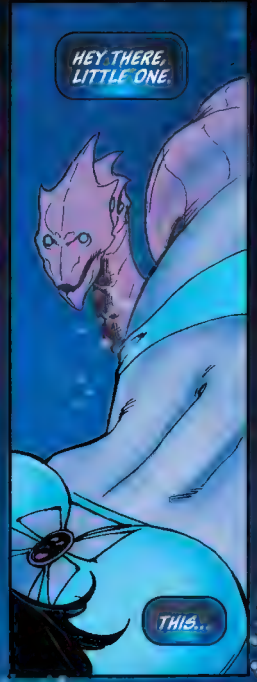
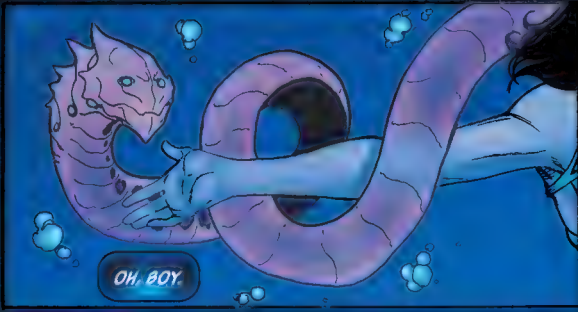
...THEY COULD
BE DANGEROUS.



I'M NOT GOING
TO HURT YOU...

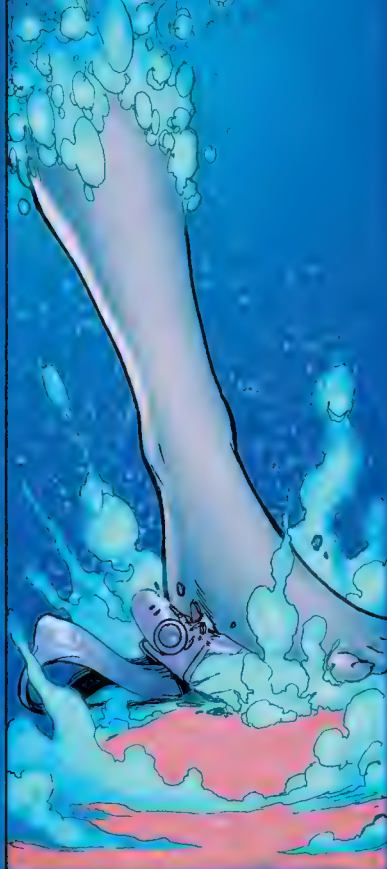


...HOPEFULLY, YOU
WON'T...HURT ME?

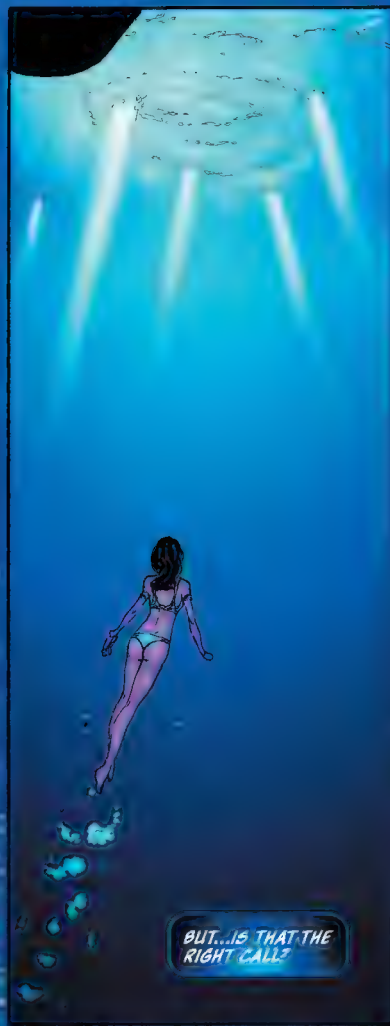




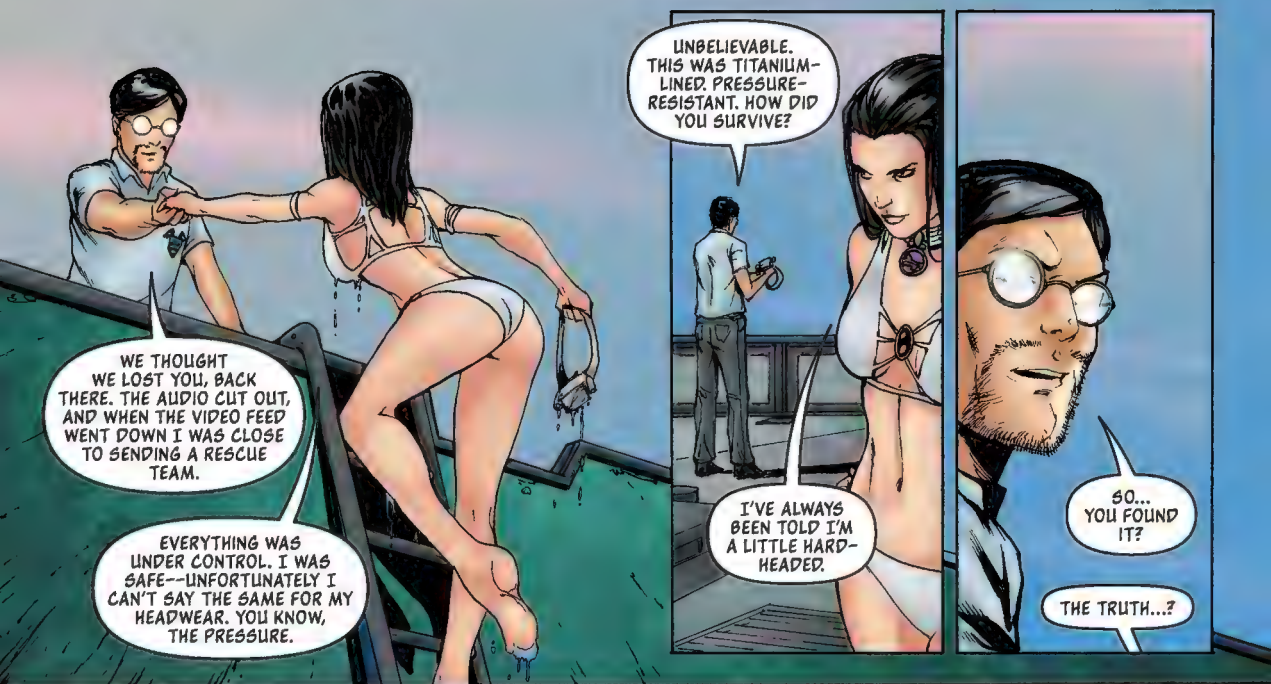
NOW, THOUGH...
WHAT DO I DO?



MR. HAMA IS RIGHT. WE
COULD LEARN A GREAT
DEAL BY STUDYING SUCH
A UNIQUE NEW SPECIMEN.
IT'S BIOLUMINESCENCE
ALONE IS OTHER-WORLDFY.
MUCH MORE ADVANCED
THAN ANY SEA CREATURE
WE'VE ENCOUNTERED
BEFORE. THE WORLD
SHOULD KNOW ABOUT IT.



BUT...IS THAT THE
RIGHT CALL?



WE THOUGHT WE LOST YOU, BACK THERE. THE AUDIO CUT OUT, AND WHEN THE VIDEO FEED WENT DOWN I WAS CLOSE TO SENDING A RESCUE TEAM.

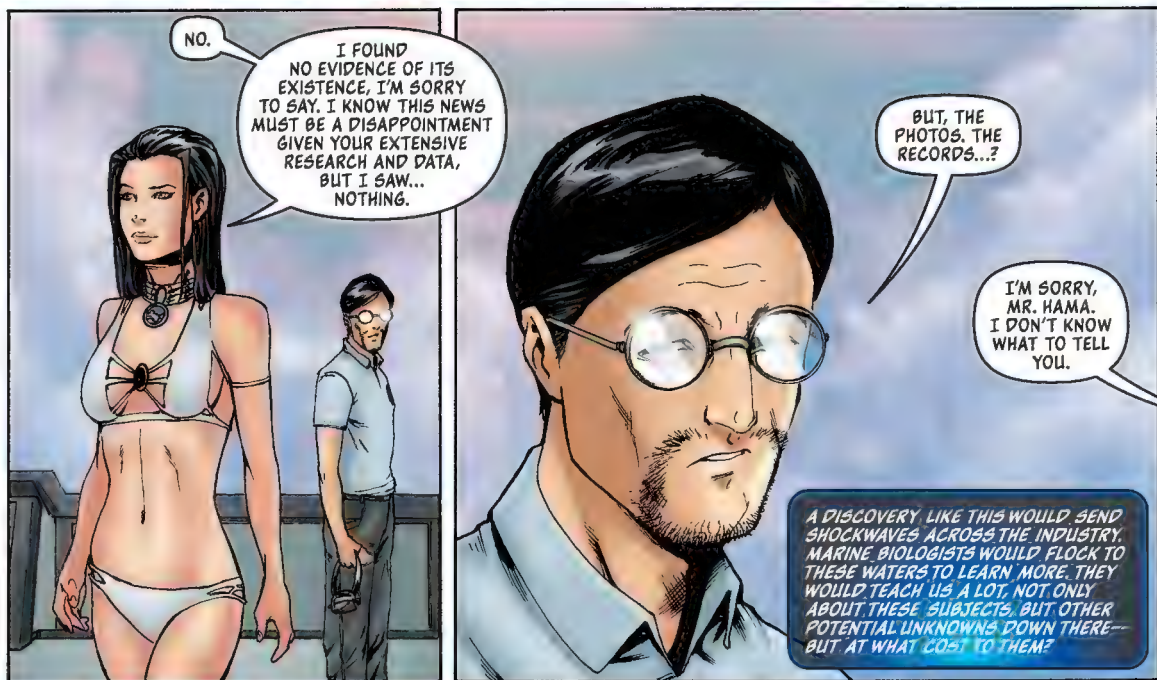
EVERYTHING WAS UNDER CONTROL. I WAS SAFE--UNFORTUNATELY I CAN'T SAY THE SAME FOR MY HEADWEAR. YOU KNOW, THE PRESSURE.

UNBELIEVABLE. THIS WAS TITANIUM-LINED, PRESSURE-RESISTANT. HOW DID YOU SURVIVE?

I'VE ALWAYS BEEN TOLD I'M A LITTLE HARD-HEADED.

SO... YOU FOUND IT?

THE TRUTH...?



NO.

I FOUND NO EVIDENCE OF ITS EXISTENCE, I'M SORRY TO SAY. I KNOW THIS NEWS MUST BE A DISAPPOINTMENT GIVEN YOUR EXTENSIVE RESEARCH AND DATA, BUT I SAW... NOTHING.

BUT, THE PHOTOS, THE RECORDS...?

I'M SORRY, MR. HAMA. I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO TELL YOU.

A DISCOVERY LIKE THIS WOULD SEND SHOCKWAVES ACROSS THE INDUSTRY. MARINE BIOLOGISTS WOULD FLOCK TO THESE WATERS TO LEARN MORE. THEY WOULD TEACH US A LOT, NOT ONLY ABOUT THESE SUBJECTS, BUT OTHER POTENTIAL UNKNOWN DOWN THERE-- BUT AT WHAT COST TO THEM?



YOU KNOW, IF THERE'S ONE THING I'VE LEARNED FROM PAST EXPERIENCE...

...SOME THINGS DESERVE TO BE LEFT A SECRET.

THE END

"DISCOVERY"

MICHAEL TURNER & BILL O'NEIL
plot

SCOTT LOBDELL
script

MICHAEL TURNER
pencils

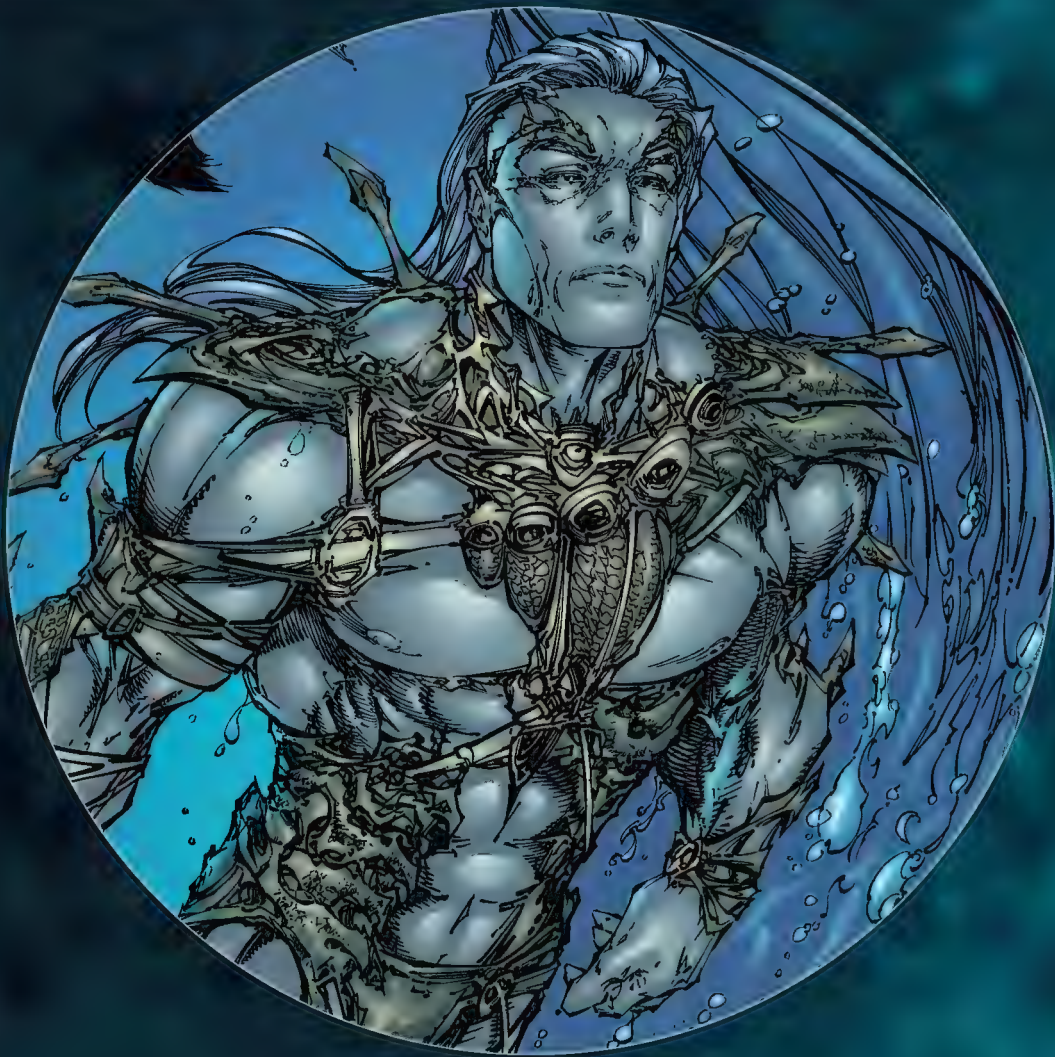
JOE WEEMS V, JONATHAN SIBAL, JASON GORDER
inks

JONATHAN D. SMITH, PETER STEIGERWALD
colors

JOSH REED
lettering

FATHOM ANNUAL

PART FOUR



ORONADO, SAN DIEGO, THE BEACHFRONT COTTAGE OF ASPEN MATTHEWS.

I HAVEN'T BEEN THIS NERVOUS ABOUT A LETTER...



...SINCE I WAS ACCEPTED TO U.C.S.D.

I PREDICT GOOD THINGS, ASPEN.

ANY COMPANY WOULD BE LUCKY TO HAVE YOU.

MUCH MORE THAN A CORPORATION, THE DND* IS AT ONCE THE MOST RENOWN--

--AND SECRETIVE--

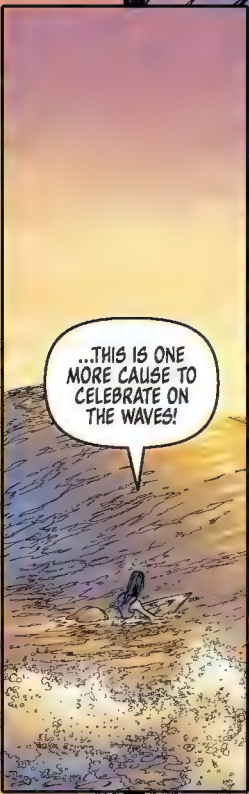
--MARINE BIOLOGY RESEARCH FACILITY IN THE WORLD.

DEEP MARINE DISCOVERY.

YES!!!



LIKE EVERY OTHER DAY OF THE WEEK...



...THIS IS ONE MORE CAUSE TO CELEBRATE ON THE WAVES!

WHAT SHE COULD NOT HAVE KNOWN?

THIS WOULD BE THE LAST SURF OF HER LIFE AS A NORMAL YOUNG WOMAN.

SOON, IN THE MIDDLE
OF THE PACIFIC...



STRAP
YOURSELVES
IN, PEOPLE.

IT'S GONNA
BE ONE HELL
OF A DIVE.

DO WE
GET AN
IN-FLOAT
MOVIE?

NO. YOU GET
A LECTURE ABOUT
THE DANGERS OF HIGH
PRESSURE ON THE
HUMAN BODY. AT TWELVE
HUNDRED FEET, WE'RE
TALKING CLOSE TO 40
ATMOSPHERES. THAT KIND
OF PRESSURE CAN BE
LETHAL, WITHOUT A
WHOLE HELL OF A LOT
OF WARNING.



SO IF ANY OF
YOU START FEELING LIKE
YOUR INNARDS ARE GRINDING
AGAINST EACH OTHER, TELL
ME IMMEDIATELY. THAT'S
USUALLY THE FIRST SIGN
OF PRESSURE
SICKNESS.

MAYBE I'D FEEL BETTER IF
I HAD A WINDOW SEAT. HOW
ABOUT YOU, ASPEN?

I DEFINITELY FEEL
SOMETHING IN MY GUT, BUT
IT'S MORE LIKE...

...AWE.

WHAT IS THAT?

THAT...

...IS THE DEEP MARINE DISCOVERY. YOUR HOME FOR THE NEXT NINETY DAYS.

IT IS JUST THE FIRST OF MANY OF THE MOST INCREDIBLE SIGHTS SHE WOULD SEE IN THE NEXT WEEK.

BUT THE NEXT NINETY DAYS...?

FATE— AND THE OCEANS— HAVE MUCH LARGER, GRANDER AND MORE TRAGIC PLANS IN STORE FOR ASPEN MATTHEWS.

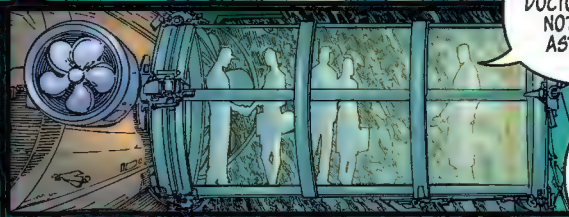
WELCOME ABOARD. I AM ALEXANDER JARVIS, DIRECTOR OF THIS FACILITY.

YOU YOUNG SCIENTISTS REPRESENT THE FRESH SET OF EYES THAT MAY HELP US SOLVE SOME OF THE MORE COMPLICATED MYSTERIES WE'VE DISCOVERED HERE ON THE OCEAN FLOOR.

YOUR RESEARCH PAPERS AND YOUR DOCTORATE THESIS WAS NOTHING SHORT OF ASTOUNDING, MISS MATTHEWS.

THANK YOU. MY FIELD OF STUDY HAS BEEN THE MOVEMENT OF ORGANIC LIFE FORMS THROUGH THE OCEAN FLOOR.

B-BUT THAT THING?



...WHAT IS IT? WHERE'D IT COME FROM?

IT'S WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE. A TRANSPORT... FOR USE UNDERWATER. AND IT CAME FROM RIGHT HERE. WE COULDN'T MOVE IT, SO WE BUILT THE DMD AROUND IT.

ASPEN, AS A SPECIALIST IN MARINE PROPULSION, YOU WERE BROUGHT HERE TO GIVE US SOME FRESH IDEAS. ANY QUESTIONS SO FAR?

QUESTIONS...? WHERE DO I START? WHO BUILT IT? AND WHAT'S IT MADE OUT OF? WHAT DOES IT USE FOR FUEL? DOES IT HAVE A CONTROL STICK OR SOME OTHER--?

WHOA, WHOA. WE DON'T HAVE ANSWERS TO MOST OF THOSE, BECAUSE WE'VE...UH...ACTUALLY, WE'VE BEEN TOTALLY UNABLE TO GET INSIDE OF IT.

I GOT ONE. WHAT'S WITH THE HEAVY MILITARY VIBE AROUND HERE?

WELL JACK, YOU PROBABLY KNOW THAT THE DMD WAS ORIGINALLY A JOINT PROJECT BETWEEN THE U.S. AND JAPAN.

WITH THE SHIP UNMOVABLE FROM INTERNATIONAL WATERS, EVERYONE HAS THEIR GUARD UP WHILE WE DO OUR BEST TO STUDY THIS EVENT.

BECAUSE IT DOESN'T BEHAVE IN ANY WAY WE UNDERSTAND, IT WAS SUGGESTED BY MR. HAWKE THAT PERHAPS YOUR OUT OF THE BOX THINKING MIGHT HELP.

MY--?

NONE OF MY WORK HAS EVEN BEEN PUBLISHED YET. AND, TO BE HONEST, A LOT OF WHAT I'VE WRITTEN ABOUT IS, WELL, INSTINCTUAL.

MY THEORIES HAVE BEEN PREDICATED ON WHAT I THINK ABOUT THE OCEAN.

SO WE'VE DISCERNED.

FASCINATING, REALLY. AS IF YOU HAVE FIRST HAND KNOWLEDGE OF THE DEEP.

WHICH WE ALL REALIZE IS... UNLIKELY.

BEING A WELL-RESPECTED EMISSARY OF BOTH THE U.S. AND THE JAPANESE...

...IT WAS CANNON HAWKE WHO BROUGHT YOUR THEORY OF INTRA-OCEANIC WORMHOLE TRAVEL TO OUR ATTENTION.

ABOUT THAT ONE. I KNOW THAT TECHNICALLY IT ISN'T POSSIBLE BUT--

YOU'LL FIND THE LONGER YOU ARE HERE, DR. MATTHEWS...

...THE LESS USE YOU'LL HAVE FOR WORDS LIKE "POSSIBLE" AND "IMPOSSIBLE."

IT HASN'T BEEN FIVE MINUTES-- AND I'M ALREADY CONVINCED.

A WEEK PASSES...

...AND SHE HAD IMMERSSED IN HER STUDIES.

I'VE COME TO KNOW THAT LOOK, ASPEN.

SHARE.

YOU'RE GOING TO THINK I'M CRAZY, DR. JARVIS.

BUT THE SURFACE OF THIS SKIN FEELS LIKE SHARK-SKIN.

SMOOTH FROM NOSE TO TAIL, AND JAGGED COMING BACK.

IT'S FRAMEWORK GIVES WHEN I PUSH ON IT. IT'S FLEXIBLE.

IT SHOULD, IN THEORY, FLOW WITHIN THE WATER INSTEAD OF PUSHING THROUGH IT.

LEAVING A MINIMUM WAKE.

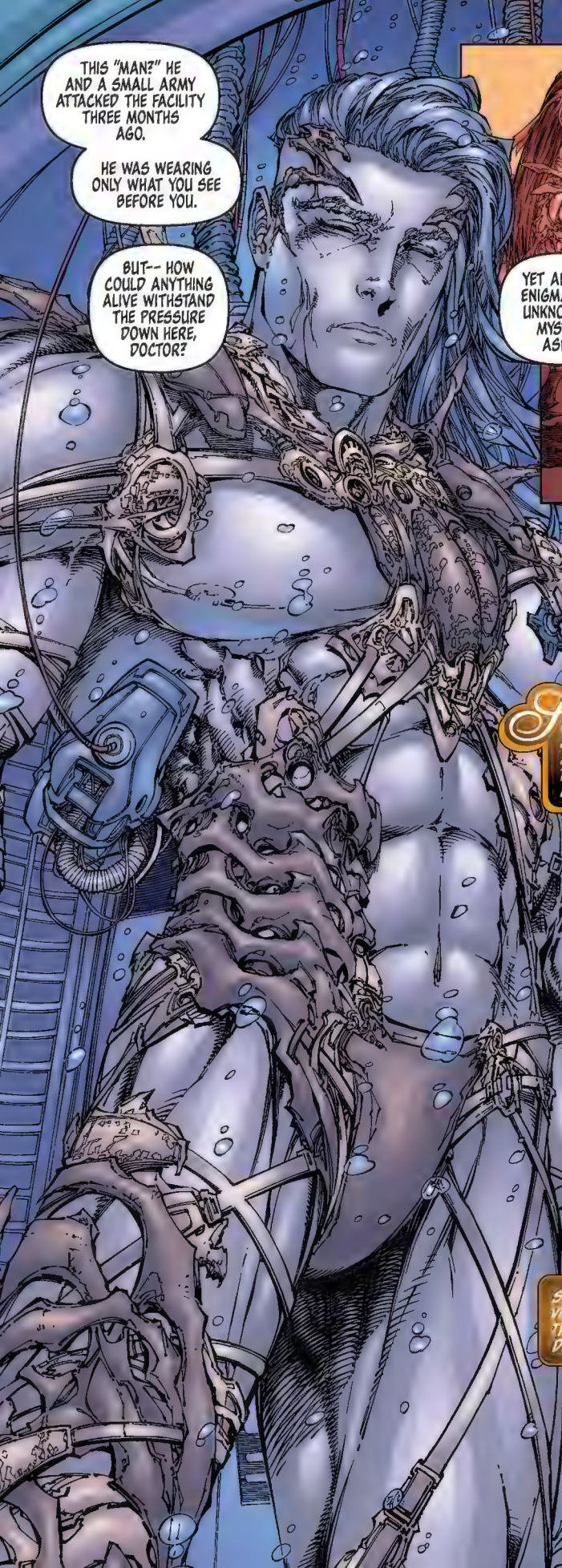
AS IF... IT'S MORE CREATURE THAN SHIP.

I'LL TELL YOU DOCTOR, I WISH I COULD MEET THE PERSON WHO DESIGNED THAT THING. EVEN ITS PILOT MIGHT BE ABLE TO ANSWER A THOUSAND QUESTIONS I HAVE.

...THAN YOU REALIZE. WHAT I'M ABOUT TO SHOW YOU ASPEN, IS AS TOP SECRET AS IT GETS.

I'M SURE I'M BREAKING A HALF DOZEN PROTOCOLS, BUT YOU'VE EARNED THE RIGHT TO SEE IT.

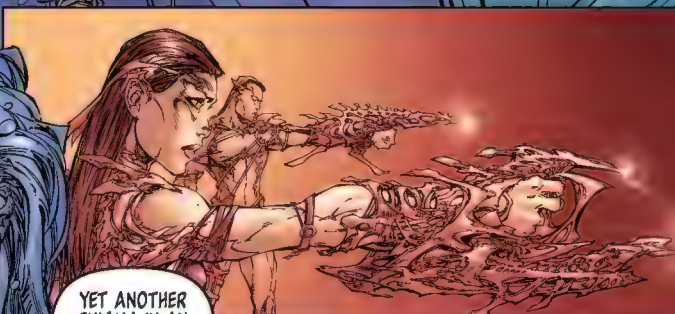
PERHAPS YOUR WISH IS CLOSER TO COMING TRUE...



THIS "MAN?" HE
AND A SMALL ARMY
ATTACKED THE FACILITY
THREE MONTHS
AGO.

HE WAS WEARING
ONLY WHAT YOU SEE
BEFORE YOU.

BUT-- HOW
COULD ANYTHING
ALIVE WITHSTAND
THE PRESSURE
DOWN HERE,
DOCTOR?



YET ANOTHER
ENIGMA IN AN
UNKNOWN
MYSTERY,
ASPEN.



OUR GUARDS
CAPTURED HIM AFTER
THE ATTACK, BUT HIS
COMPANIONS ESCAPED
INTO THE VOID, I'M
AFRAID.

HE DIDN'T TELL DR.
JARVIS, BUT THE
SIGHT OF THIS MAN
TRIGGERED A DEEP
ROOTED MEMORY.

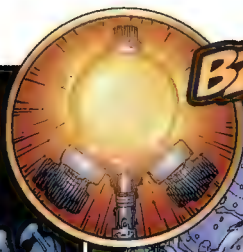


SHE WAS A CHILD,
NEARLY DROWNED
OFF THE COAST.

SHE ALWAYS BELIEVED THE
VISION SHE HAD FROM
THAT DAY WAS A NEAR
DEATH HALLUCINATION.



SHE WAS
WRONG.

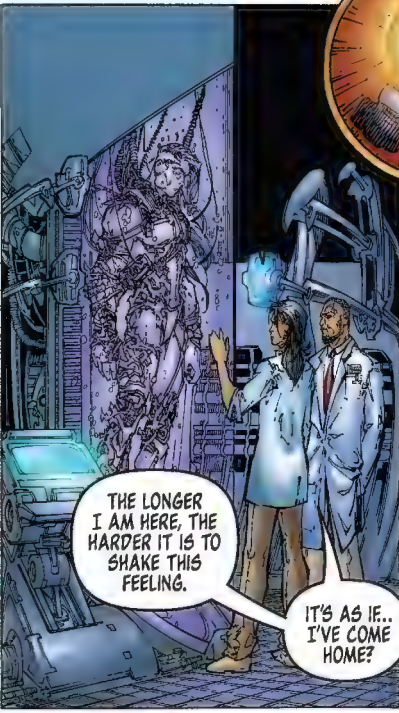


BZZZT BZZZT BZZZT

THAT'S
THE... COLLISION
ALARM???

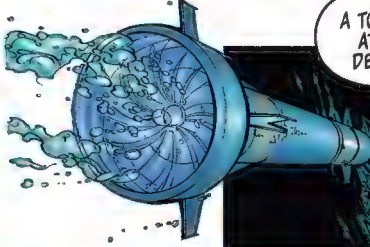
ALL HANDS,
PREPARE FOR
IMPACT!

REPEAT! ALL
HANDS, PREPARE
FOR IMPACT!



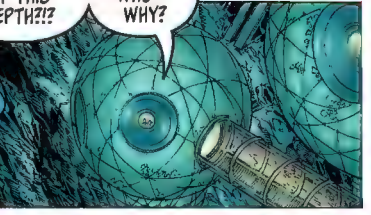
THE LONGER
I AM HERE, THE
HARDER IT IS TO
SHAKE THIS
FEELING.

IT'S AS IF...
I'VE COME
HOME?



A TORPEDO?
AT THIS
DEPTH???

BUT
WHO--
WHY?



BARABA-

BOOM!

LEVELS SIX
THROUGH TWELVE--
DAMAGE BEYOND
REPAIR.

ALL PERSONAL
MAKE YOUR WAY
TO LEVELS ONE
THROUGH FIVE!

IF I'M GOING
TO DIE...

...WHY DOES THIS
FEEL SO RIGHT?

SHOSH

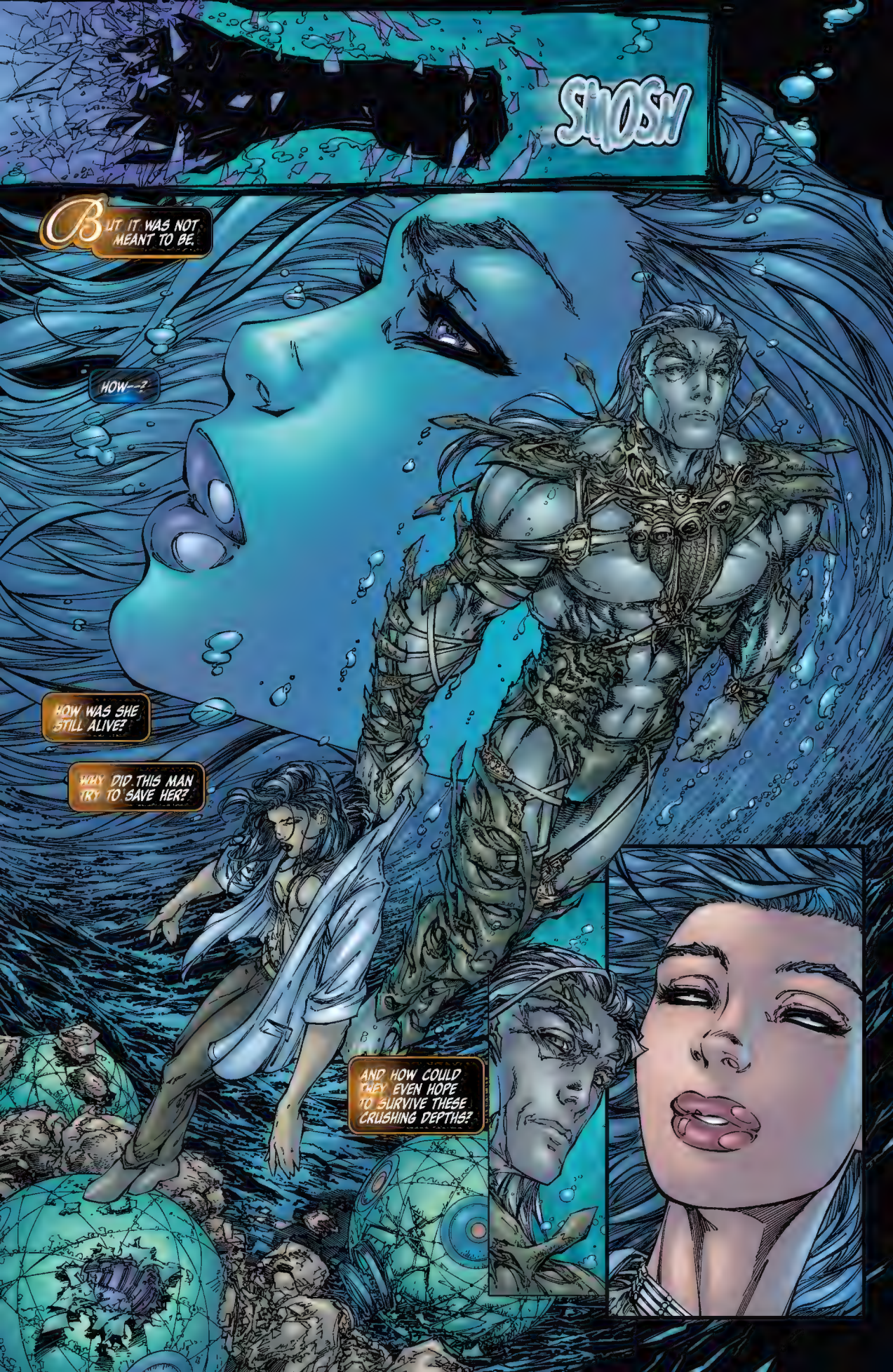
BUT IT WAS NOT
MEANT TO BE.

HOW--?

HOW WAS SHE
STILL ALIVE?

WHY DID THIS MAN
TRY TO SAVE HER?

AND HOW COULD
THEY EVEN HOPE
TO SURVIVE THESE
CRUSHING DEPTHS?



I F SHE COULD HAVE
SEEN HERSELF IN
THAT MOMENT.

HER TRUE
SELF.

A WOMAN OF
TWO WORLDS.

THE ONE WE
KNOW...

AND THE
ONE BELOW.

FOR EVEN THOUGH SHE
COULD NOT BEGIN TO
SUSPECT THE TRUTH.

ASPEN MATTHEWS HAS ALWAYS
BEEN SOMETHING FAR MORE
THAN SIMPLY... HUMAN.

AND

PERHAPS

SOMETHING

MORE?

MICHAEL TURNER'S
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digital inks

ERICK ARCINIEGA
colors

JOSH REED
lettering



e t u r n e r s
F A T H O M

ALL IN THE FAMILY

THE FATE OF TWO CIVILIZATIONS

ASPEN and Chance were able to fly the experimental submersible aircraft

FATHOM CREATED BY MICHAEL TURNER
THE BLACK CO-CREATED BY MICHAEL TURNER AND PETER STEIGERWALD

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A man with dark hair and a beard, wearing a dark, patterned tunic, sits at a long, dark table. He is looking down at a small, glowing blue object on the table. The background is dark and industrial, with a large, curved structure visible.

FOR JUST A FEW SHORT YEARS, SIPHON HAS PRESIDED OVER THE COUNCIL THAT OVERSEES THE UNDERWATER RACE KNOWN AS THE BLUE.

FOR SIPHON, IT SEEMS AN ETERNITY.

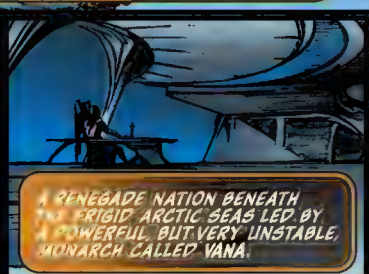
BETWEEN SEVERAL MAJOR SKIRMISHES WITH THE MILITARY MIGHT OF THE SURFACE DWELLERS AND THE DEVASTATING INCURSIONS FROM THEIR UNDERWATER BRETHREN KNOWN AS THE BLACK, THESE HAVE BEEN TUMULTUOUS TIMES FOR THE BLUE OF MURIA.

A close-up of a woman's face, looking down with a somber expression. Her hair is dark and long.

AND NOW, A NEW THREAT IS UPON THEM.

A close-up of a man's face, looking up with a determined expression. He is wearing a dark, patterned tunic.

ONE MUCH CLOSER TO HOME, AND POTENTIALLY JUST AS DANGEROUS.

A small figure stands on a structure, looking out over a vast, dark, and industrial landscape. The figure is silhouetted against a bright light source.

A RENEGADE NATION BENEATH THE FRIGID ARCTIC SEAS LED BY A POWERFUL, BUT VERY UNSTABLE, MONARCH CALLED VANA.

A man with dark hair and a beard, wearing a dark, patterned tunic, sits at a long, dark table. He is looking down at a small, glowing blue object on the table. The background is dark and industrial, with a large, curved structure visible.

SIPHON SENT THE COMMANDER OF HIS FORCES, KILLIAN, TO INVESTIGATE HER WHEREABOUTS, ALONG WITH A SMALL CONTINGENT OF SOLDIERS.

THEY NEVER RETURNED.

A close-up of a man's face, looking up with a determined expression. He is wearing a dark, patterned tunic.

FEARING THE WORST, HE COMMITTED A LARGER FORCE—NEARLY ALL OF HIS MEN—TO ASSAULT VANA'S STRONGHOLD.

WHAKOOM

Two silhouetted figures stand in a dark, industrial setting. The figure on the left is looking out over a vast, dark, and industrial landscape. The figure on the right is looking down at a small, glowing blue object on the table.

NOW HE WONDERS HE'S MADE A TERRIBLE MISTAKE.



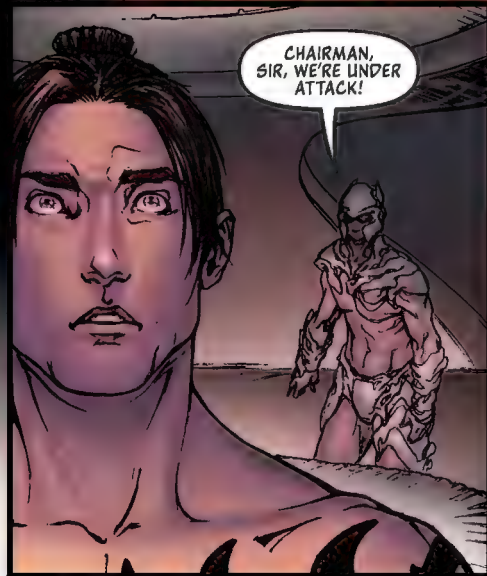
MY GOD.

THWOOSSHH

THWOOSSHH



THWAKOOOMSHHH



CHAIRMAN,
SIR, WE'RE UNDER
ATTACK!



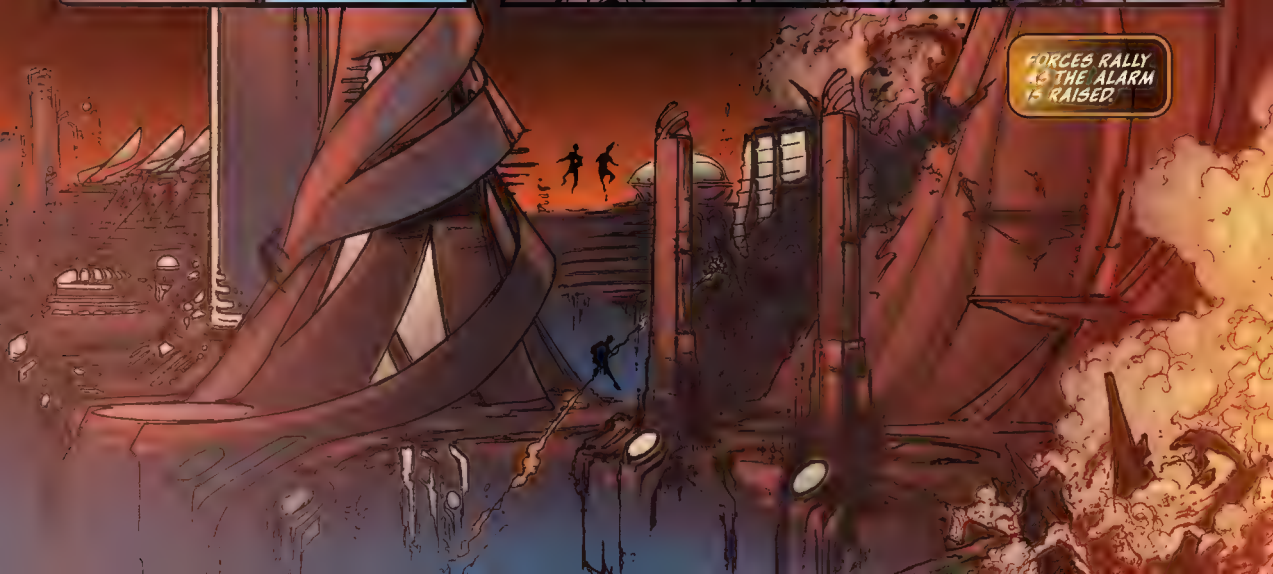
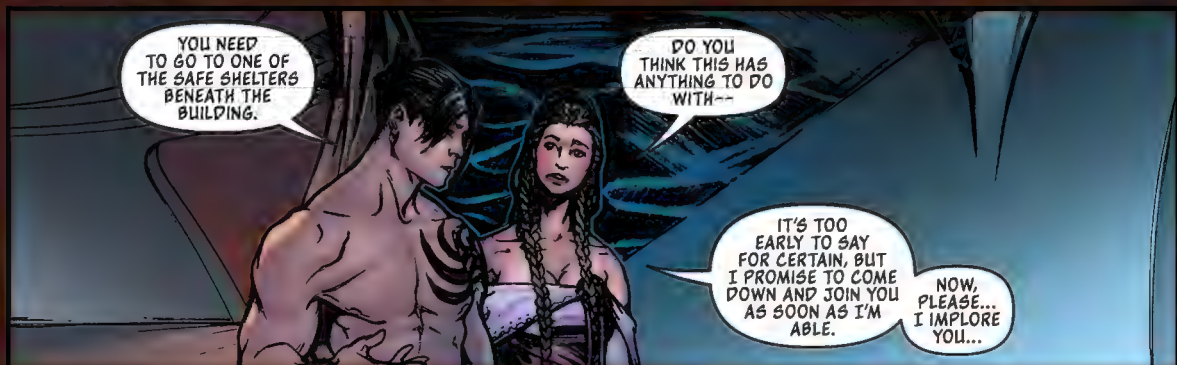
I'M AWARE
OF THAT,
SOLDIER.

RAISE THE
ALARM. SEND
OUT THE GUARD
IMMEDIATELY.



I WANT EVERY ABLE HAND
THAT CAN HOLD A SPEAR OUT
THERE DEFENDING THIS
CITY. NOW!

YES,
SIR!





THE BEST AND BRIGHTEST OF MURIA'S
COUNCIL GUARD, TRAINED SINCE
KIDHOOD TO BATTLE ANY FORCE THAT
WOULD OPPOSE THE GLORIOUS CITY.

BUT THIS IS NOT
JUST ANY FORCE.



AS HIS SOLDIERS CONTINUE TO FALL, SIPHON CAN ONLY WONDER HOW HUGE THIS ARMY MUST BE TO INFLICT SUCH DAMAGE...

...AND THE WEAPONS THEY USE. MASSIVE PROJECTILES OF FIERY MAGMA, ARE UNLIKE ANYTHING HE'S EVER SEEN.

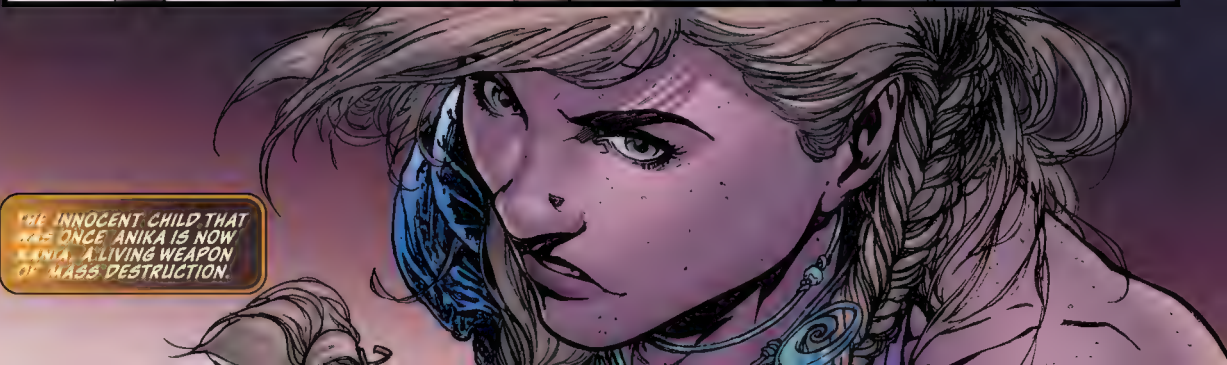
WHOMEVER CONTROLS THIS ARMY MUST HAVE VAST POWER AT HIS DISPOSAL, AND A MERCILESSLY STRATEGIC MIND.



HE WAS PARTIALLY CORRECT.

HIS OPPONENT IS POWERFUL...

...AND WITHOUT A HINT OF MERCY.

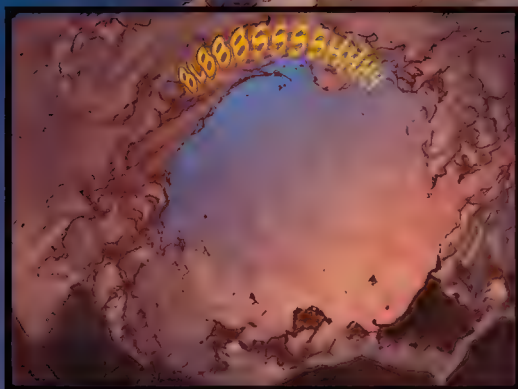




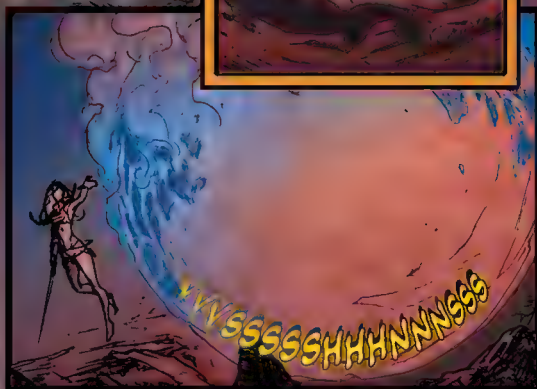
WHSSHHHH



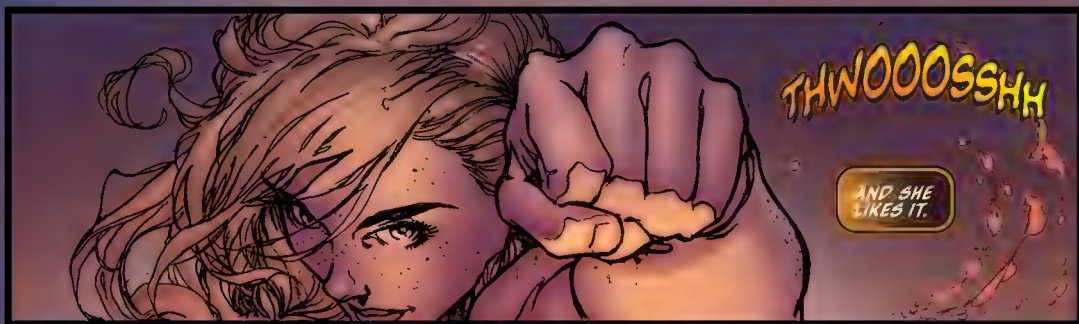
KRRKKSSHHH



WSSSSSSHHH



VVSSSSHHHNNSS



THWOOSSHH

AND SHE
LIKES IT.



THWAKOOOOOOOOOO

ELSEWHERE, FAR
TO THE NORTH...

I HAVE TO SAY, WHEN CHANCE
AND I DECIDED TO COME HERE,
THE LAST PERSON I EXPECTED
TO SEE WAS KILLIAN.

...ESPECIALLY IN A
STATE LIKE THIS.

WE NEED
TO GET TO HER...
BEFORE IT'S TOO
LATE...

JUST
TAKE IT
EASY. WE'LL
GET--

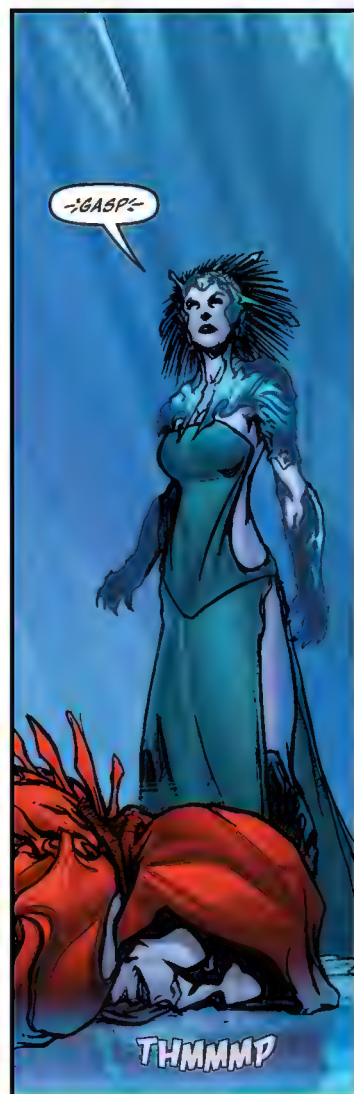
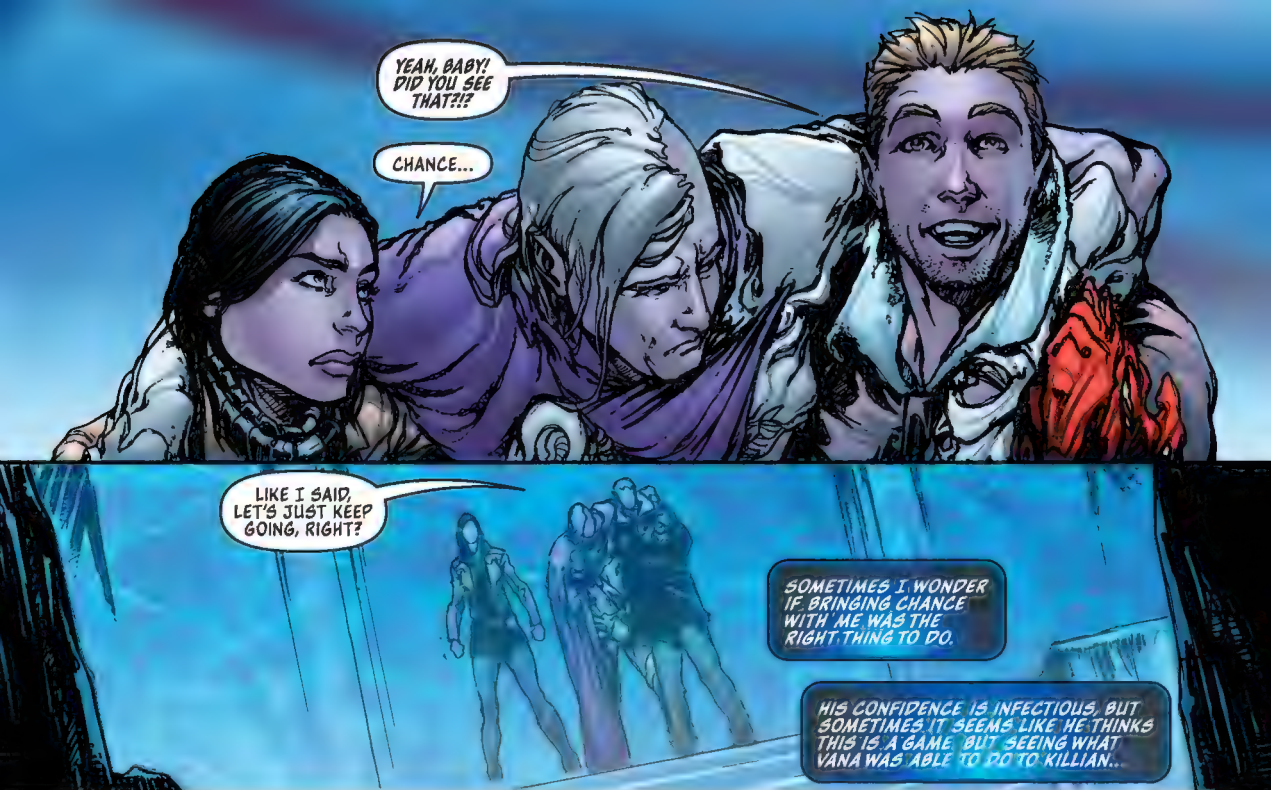
WHAT
IS GOING ON
HERE?!

DO NOT
EVEN THINK
ABOUT--

KZZIKKASH

FWOOOOOOSH

WHUMPPKSSHH





WHO DID THIS?

IF I WERE YOU, VANA...



...I'D REALLY LOOK INTO GETTING BETTER HELP.

HE DIDN'T NEED MUCH PERSUASION TO TELL US WHERE TO FIND YOU.



YOU!

VOOOOOSSHHH

KKLLKKSSSHHHH









YOU TURNED
YOUR SON INTO
A MONSTER.

HIS DEATH
WAS AN ACT OF
KINDNESS.

YOURS WILL
BE AN ACT OF
VENGEANCE.



KKKSSSHHHHH



KKSSHHHHHTTTT

THNNNTT



NNNOO...
STOPPPR...

WHHEEEESSHHHH

HOW
DOES IT FEEL,
VANA, WHEN
YOUR INSIDES
BOIL?



KILLIAN!
STOP! YOU'RE
GONNA KILL
HER!

NOT YET.



THERE'S SOMETHING SHE STILL NEEDS TO DO. ISN'T THAT RIGHT, VANA?

I...WILL... KILL...YOU.

NO, YOU'RE GOING TO STAND.

NEVER.

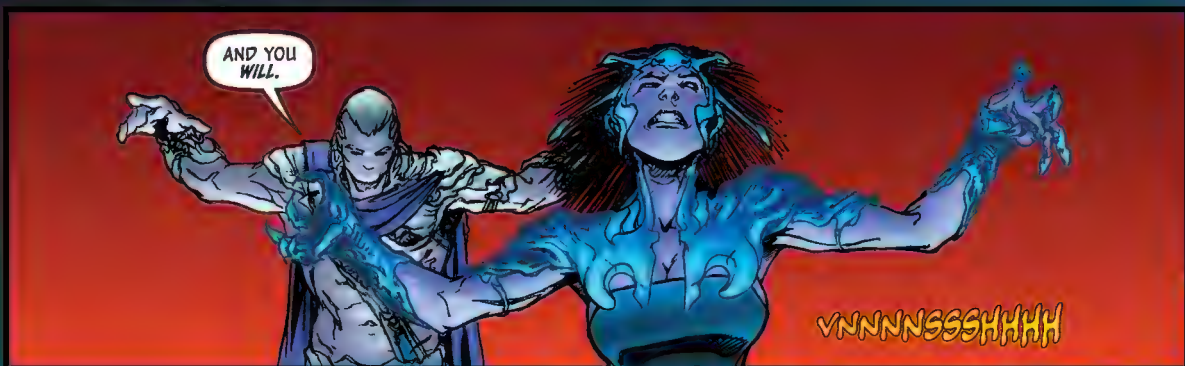


YOU ARE GOING TO ACTIVATE YOUR HYDROPORT SO WE CAN STOP THAT LITTLE PUPPET OF YOURS.



NU--NO. NEVER. YOU-- CAN'T...!

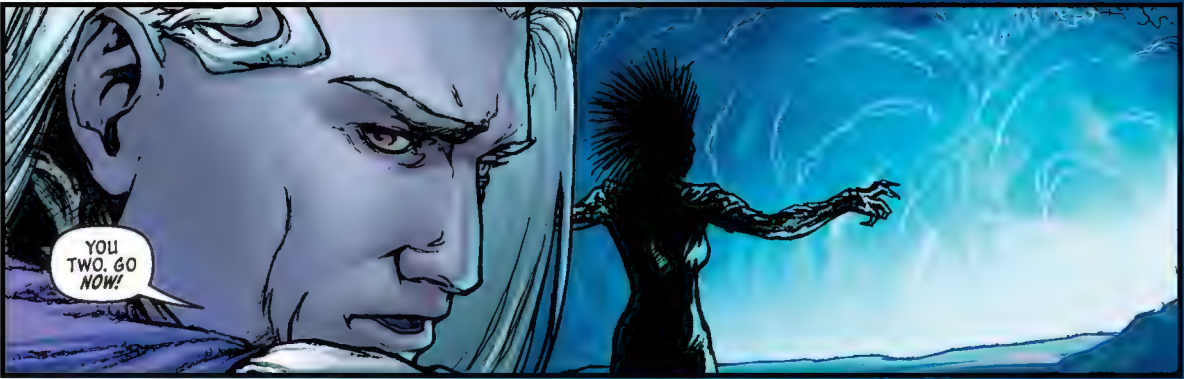
ACTUALLY, I CAN.



AND YOU WILL.

VNNNNSSSHHHH

WRRSSSHHHHHHHHH



YOU TWO. GO NOW!



WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH HER?

JUST GO. I'LL BE RIGHT BEHIND YOU.



KILLIAN-- BEFORE YOU DO THIS-- LISTEN TO ME.



THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED TO TELL YOU ABOUT YOUR DAD...



URIA.

PLEASE BE
CAREFUL, PRINCESS.
REMEMBER THE
QUEEN ORD--

I DON'T THINK
THESE GUYS ARE
GOING TO GIVE US
ANY TROUBLE,
MARCUS.



TAKE YOUR
MEN DOWNSTAIRS.
THAT'S WHERE THE REST
OF THE MICE WILL
BE HIDING.

IF YOU
FIND THE ONE
CALLED "SIPHON,"
HOLD HIM FOR
ME.

I'M GONNA
LOOK AROUND
A BIT.



PRINCESS,
SHOULD WE NOT
ESCORT--

--I CAN
TAKE CARE OF
MYSELF.

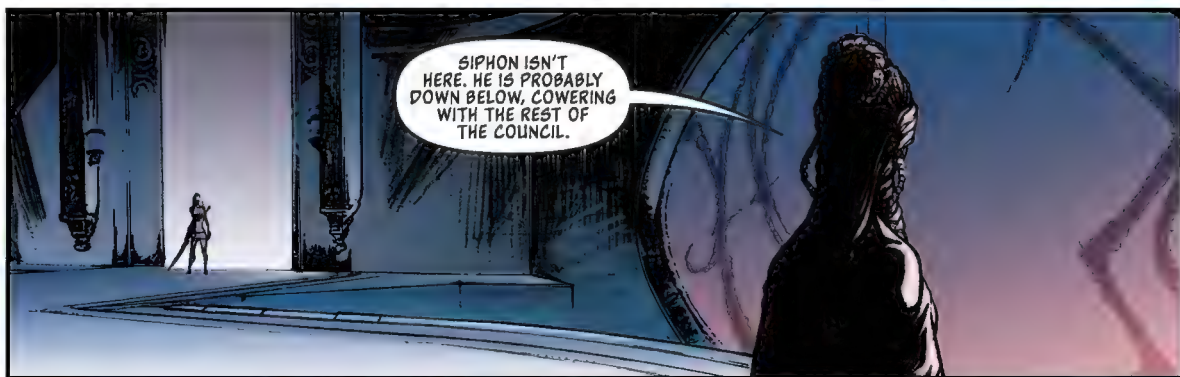


WHAT A
WASTE. I WILL NEED
TO REBUILD THIS WHOLE
PLACE WHEN WE
MOVE IN.



SIPHON, IF
YOU ARE HIDING IN
HERE SOMEWHERE, YOU
MAY AS WELL SHOW
YOURSELF!

I HAVE A
MESSAGE FROM
MY MOTHER!





I AM SORRY.
I-I TRIED TO KEEP
YOU SAFE.

I KNEW
YOU WERE ALIVE--
EVERYONE THOUGHT
I WAS CRAZY--
EVEN KILLIAN.

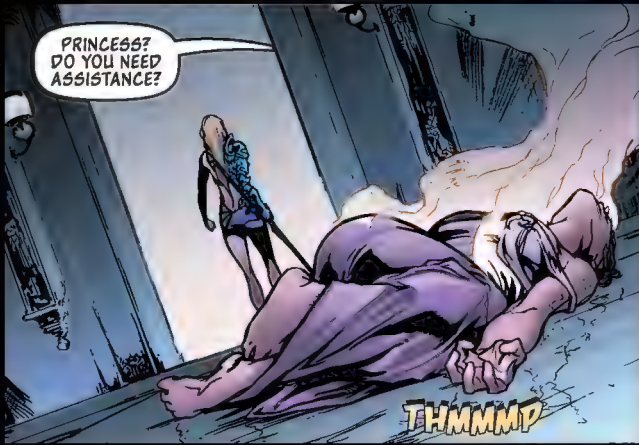
I KNEW YOU
WERE OUT THERE
SOMEWHERE, BUT
I COULD NOT
GET TO YOU.



I COULD NOT
SAVE MY BEAUTIFUL,
LITTLE ANIKA BEFORE
-GASP-



AGGHHH--
NO-- PLEASE--
I JUST--!



PRINCESS?
DO YOU NEED
ASSISTANCE?

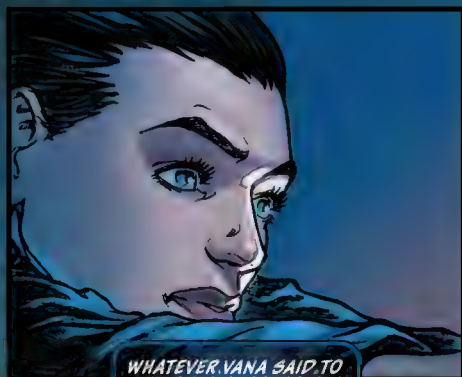
THMMMP



WAS THAT
A GUARD?

NO...
JUST SOME
DEMENTED
WOMAN.

I TOOK
CARE OF
HER.





david WOHL • alex KONAT • beth SOTELO • josh REED

10
FOR
10

#8

COVER A

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turner's
FATHOM

SINS OF THE FATHER

SIPHON leader of the

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MOMENTS AGO, ASPEN MATTHEWS, CHANCE CALLOWAY, AND COMMANDER KILLIAN DEFEATED THE CRIMINALLY INSANE QUEEN VANA IN HER ARCTIC FORTRESS...

BUT THE VICTORY WAS SHORT-LIVED, AS THEY DISCOVERED HER PLANS TO SEND AN ATTACK FORCE TO DESTROY THE BLUE CAPITAL CITY OF MURIA.

WITH NO TIME TO SPARE, THE THREE UTILIZED VANA'S HYDROPORT TECHNOLOGY TO TRANSPORT THEM TO A SHORT DISTANCE FROM MURIA, IN THE HOPES THEY COULD ARRIVE IN TIME.

WHAT THE HELL?!

THEY FAILED.

WE'RE TOO LATE...

VANA'S TEAM WAS LED BY HER IMMENSELY POWERFUL DAUGHTER, KANIA, AND AN ELITE CADRE OF HER BEST SOLDIERS, ALL BORNE WITH AN INTENSE BATTER OF THEIR SOUTHERN BLUE BRETHREN.

THEIR CHIEF TARGET: THE CAPITOL BUILDING AND ALL WITHIN IT...

INCLUDING KILLIAN'S BETRANDED WIFE, ANYA...

MUCH TO KILLIAN'S DEVISIOUS DISMAY.

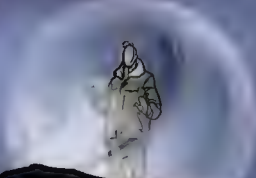


WAIT!
I THOUGHT THE PLAN
WAS TO STAY TOGETHER.
"STRENGTH IN NUMBERS"
OR SOMETHING LIKE
THAT.

FINE...
I'LL JUST STAY
HERE.



BESIDES...
NOT LIKE I CAN GO
ANYWHERE.



HOLLER
IF YOU NEED
ANYTHING...!



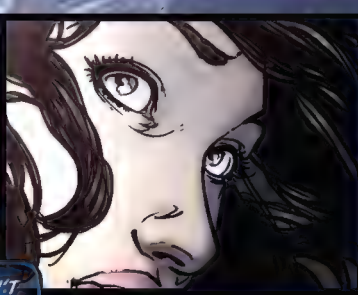
I HATE TO LEAVE CHANCE LIKE
THAT, BUT KILLIAN HASN'T BEEN
HIMSELF SINCE WE GOT HERE.



SOMETHING HAPPENED
BETWEEN HE AND VANA
AS WE WERE LEAVING.

CHANCE AND I WERE STARTING
TO GO, AND I COULD SWEAR
SHE SAID SOMETHING TO
KILLIAN BEFORE HE JOINED US...

...BUT HE WON'T
TALK ABOUT IT--





A woman with dark hair and a determined expression is being swept up by a powerful, swirling blue energy current. She is wearing a dark, high-collared jacket. Her arms are outstretched, and her legs are splayed out. The current is depicted with dynamic, swirling lines and a bright blue glow.

SWEPT UP IN AN IMMENSELY POWERFUL CURRENT TEEMING WITH BLUE ENERGY, ASHEN HAS NO TIME TO REACT.

WHROOOOSSHHH



A woman is shown in a city setting, being hit by a massive, bright white energy blast. The blast is depicted with a large, glowing white sphere and radiating lines. The city buildings in the background are dark and silhouetted against a pinkish-purple sky. The woman is being thrown back by the force of the blast.

ALL SHE CAN DO IS RELAX, HER BEST, AND HOPE THIS WON'T HURT AS MUCH AS IT LOOKS LIKE IT WILL.

THHKKSSHHH

IT DOES.



A woman is shown falling into a dark, swirling vortex of energy. She is wearing a dark jacket and is being pulled down by the force of the vortex. The vortex is depicted with dark, swirling lines and a bright blue glow. The woman's expression is one of determination and hope.

AT THE SAME TIME, SHE CAN'T HELP BUT BE JUST A BIT AWED BY THE RAW POWER THAT RELENTLESSLY ASSAILS HER...

A SMALL CONSOLATION, AS HER MIND DESCENDS INTO DARKNESS.

WHUMPPDDSSHHH

FOR KANIA, THE ASSAULT
ON MURIA WAS PROCEEDING
EASIER THAN EXPECTED.

FFFSSSHHHH

TOO EASY, IN HER
ESTIMATION.

KKKSSHHKKK

SHE WONDER
S WHY MOTHER
FELT SHE EVEN
NEEDED GUARDS
FOR A MISSION
LIKE THIS.

IF ANYTHING,
THEY JUST GET
IN THE WAY.

IT'S NOT LIKE SHE
NEEDS ANY HELP TO
KILL THESE MURIANS..

ALTHOUGH THERE
IS SOMETHING
DIFFERENT
ABOUT THIS ONE.
SHE CAN FEEL IT.

THOOSSHHHHH

ASPEN AWAKENS TO
FIND HERSELF
COMPLETELY TRAPPED...

SURROUNDED BY
TENDRILS OF EARTH...

SOMEHOW, CREATED BY
THIS GIRL-- VANA'S PET.

THEIR ABILITIES, ASPEN REALIZES, ARE
THE SAME IN A SENSE-- THEY CAN BOTH
MANIPULATE THE WATER AROUND THEM.

KKKKKSSHHH

AND THE GIRL CAN WRAP IT AROUND THE
EARTH-- EVEN DIGGING FAR BENEATH THE
SURFACE TO BRING UP MAGMA.

SHEEEEOOSSHHH

IT'S A FEAT OF INCREDIBLE POWER
AND CONTROL, POSSIBLY RIVALING EVEN
CLAWS. YET IT SEEMS EFFORTLESS.

AND WORST OF ALL,
ASPEN REALIZES SHE'S
JUST BEING TOYED WITH.

ELSEWHERE...

THE RESIDENTIAL
ZONE WAS RAZED.

ANYA!

ALL THAT REMAINED OF
KILLIAN'S FORMER HOME
WAS A SMOLDERING RUIN,
STILL SIZZLING FROM THE
MAGMA THAT STRUCK IT.

IT WASN'T SO LONG AGO,
THE ONLY SOUNDS HE HEARD
WERE WERE THE CRIES OF
THEIR YOUNG CHILD, ANIKA.

THK
THK
THKSSSHHHH

KILLIAN'S FAMILY WAS WHOLE, THEN.
EVER HIS TROUBLED DAUGHTER, KIANI,
LOVED HER NEW LITTLE SISTER.

THEN VANA'S MEN ABDUCTED
ANIKA, AND KILLIAN COULDN'T
DO NOTHING TO STOP THEM.*

MEN LIKE THESE.

KKSSSSSHHHHHKKK

WHAT'S
TAKING SO
LONG?

*SEE: FATHOM:
THE ELITE JAGA.

WITH MURIA'S SECURITY FORCE
ELIMINATED, KANIA SENT THEM TO
FIND ANY SURVIVING MEMBERS
OF THE COUNCIL AND KILL THEM.

ALMOST
THERE.

THEY TRACKED THE
REMAINING FEW TO THIS
HEAVILY SECURED VAULT
IN THE LOWEST LEVEL
OF THE BUILDING.

VNNNN

HNH?

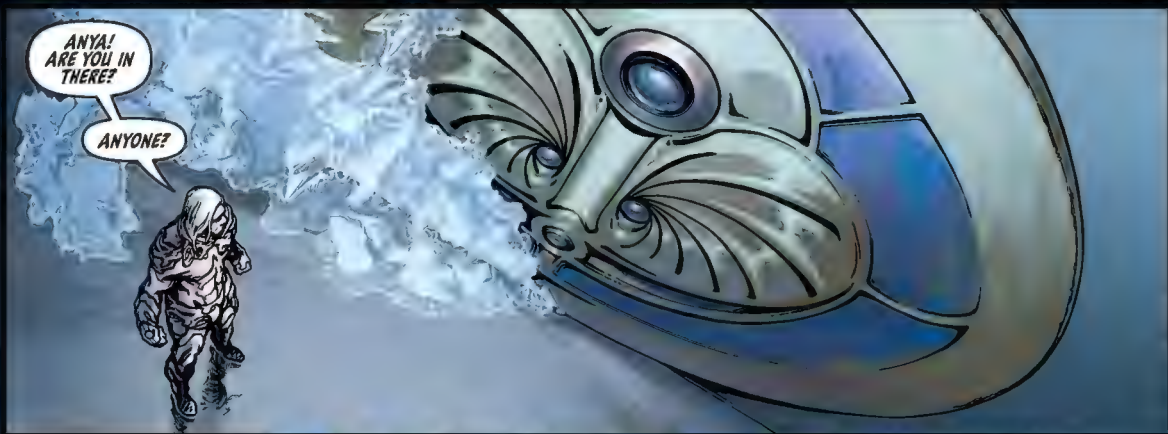
A full-page comic book illustration of Killian (Iron Man) in the ocean. He is shown from the waist up, emerging from the water. He has a determined, angry expression with his teeth bared. He is wearing his Iron Man armor, which is partially submerged. His right arm is extended forward, with a blue energy blast emanating from his palm. The water around him is turbulent, with large splashes and bubbles. In the background, the silhouettes of several sharks are visible, swimming towards him. The overall color palette is dominated by blues and greys, with the metallic tones of the armor and the bright blue of the energy blast providing contrast.

SEEING THESE MEN WHO RUINED
HIS FAMILY AND DESTROYED HIS
HOME FOMENTS KILLIAN'S PAIN, HIS
FRUSTRATION, HIS REGRET-- ALL
THE EMOTION BURSTING FORTH...

...ALL
DEMANDING
REVENGE!

ENOUGH!

THWOOOOWWWW
SHHHHH



IF I'M GONNA GO, IT
WILL NOT BE THIS WAY.

NOT HERE, NOT NOW,
AND DEFINITELY NOT
AT THE HANDS OF
SOME SMUG KID.

I NEVER THOUGHT OF MYSELF AS THE
PRAYING TYPE, BUT I COULD USE A
LITTLE DIVINE INTERVENTION RIGHT--

KSHH

BULLSEYE!

CHANCE! NO!
WHAT IS HE
DOING???

HE WON'T SURVIVE
A SECOND AGAINST
THOSE GOONS.

BUT THE SON OF A GUN
DID DISTRACT HER.

THAT'S RIGHT, GIRL. NO
NEED TO WORRY
ABOUT ME ANYMORE...

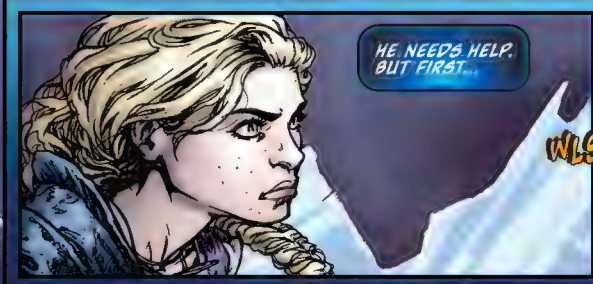
...EVERYTHING IS
UNDER CONTROL.

MINE.



HEY,
UH, ASPEN.
ANY TIME YOU
WANNA RETURN
THE FAVOR, I'M
COOL WITH
IT.

THAT BUBBLE AROUND CHANCE
CAN KEEP HIM BREATHING FOR
A WHILE, BUT WON'T DO MUCH
AGAINST THOSE SWORDS.



HE NEEDS HELP.
BUT FIRST...



WLSHH

SHE REALLY SHOULD'VE
REMEMBERED THE FIRST
RULE OF FIGHTING.



NEVER LET YOUR
GUARD DOWN.

THOOOOSHHH



CHANCE NEEDS TO HANG
IN THERE A BIT LONGER.
I JUST NEED A LITTLE...



OKAY,
ASPEN... ANY TIME
YOU'RE READY!

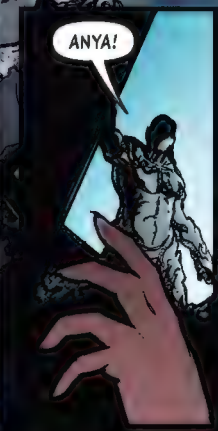


DESPERATELY TEARING UP EVERY BIT OF RUBBLE, EXAMINING EVERY CORPSE AMONG THE DEVASTATION, KILLIAN IS PAINFULLY REMINDED OF THE PAST.

ONCE, ANYA WAS THE LIGHT OF HIS LIFE--THE ONLY WOMAN WHO COULD SOOTHE HIS TORMENTED SOUL.

THROUGH ANYA, KILLIAN COULD SEE THE GOODNESS IN THE WORLD... IN HIMSELF.

WHEN ANYA WAS ABDUCTED, PLUNGING ANYA INTO DARKNESS AND DESPAIR, KILLIAN HAD NO PATIENCE FOR IT. FOR HER.





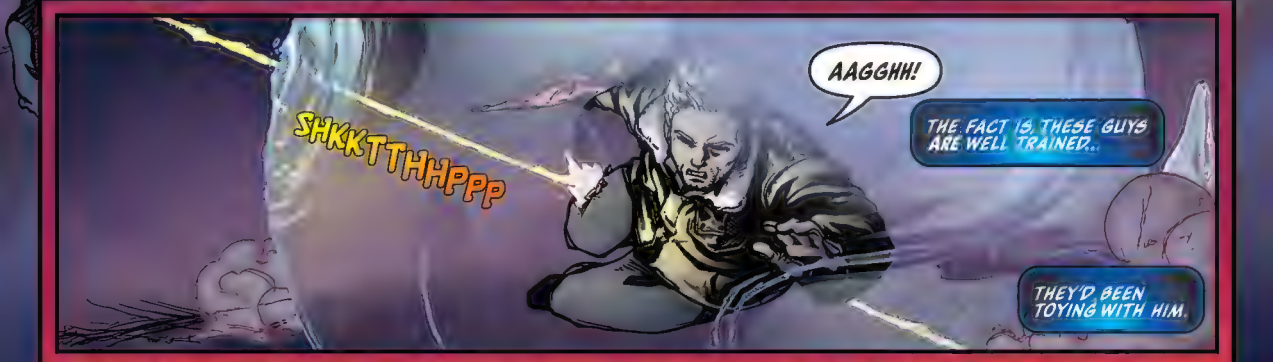
YOU GUYS
ARE SERIOUSLY
VANA'S BEST?

CAN'T--
EVEN HIT A
DEFENSELESS
TARGET!

GOTTA HAND IT TO
CHANCE. TALKS A
GOOD GAME NO
MATTER WHO HE'S
UP AGAINST.

SHOOKKSHH

SHOOKKSHH

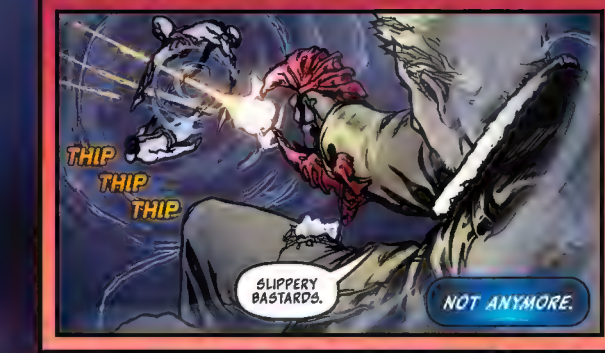


SHKKTTHHPPP

AAGGHH!

THE FACT IS, THESE GUYS
ARE WELL TRAINED...

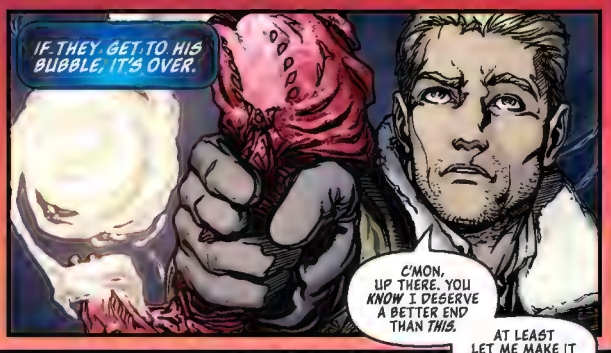
THEY'D BEEN
TOYING WITH HIM.



THIP
THIP
THIP

SLIPPERY
BASTARDS.

NOT ANYMORE.



IF THEY GET TO HIS
BUBBLE, IT'S OVER.

C'MON.
UP THERE. YOU
KNOW I DESERVE
A BETTER END
THAN THIS.

AT LEAST
LET ME MAKE IT
A FIGHT--



THUDAKKROOOONNESHHH



WHOA!

UH, THANKS?!!

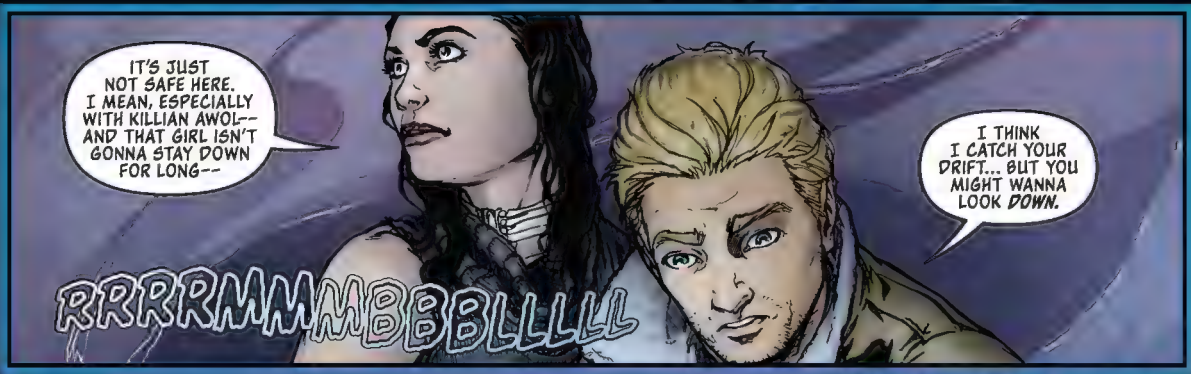
YOU'RE WELCOME.



OH--
HEY, ASPEN. I
THOUGH-- OH,
NEVER MIND.

DON'T
WORRY ABOUT
ME, I'M FINE.

THAT LEG
LOOKS BAD.
I NEED TO GET
YOU OUT OF
HERE.



IT'S JUST
NOT SAFE HERE.
I MEAN, ESPECIALLY
WITH KILLIAN AWOL--
AND THAT GIRL ISN'T
GONNA STAY DOWN
FOR LONG--

I THINK
I CATCH YOUR
DRIFT... BUT YOU
MIGHT WANNA
LOOK DOWN.

RRRRMMMBBLLLLL



DAMN. THIS IS
HER HANDIWORK.
SHE DOESN'T JUST
CONTROL THE WATER,
BUT WHATEVER'S
AROUND IT.

THANKS FOR
THE INFO. BUT WHAT
IS SHE DOING?

JUDGING FROM
HER PREVIOUS TACTICS,
I'D SAY THE ONLY THING
I CAN TELL YOU IS
HOLD ON!

WTHRRSSHHHH



TO WHAAAAAAAAAAAA!

SHROOOW

SHE'S CLEARLY NOT BACK UP
TO FULL STRENGTH YET. I'D
NEVER GET FREE SO EASILY.

FFFSSSHHHH

CHANCE ISN'T
GONNA LAST LONG
WITH THAT THING
SQUEEZING HIS
LUNGS AND NO
AIR BUBBLE

I NEED TO
HELP HIM...

...AND THAT LITTLE
SNEAK KNOWS IT.

FOOOOSSHHHH

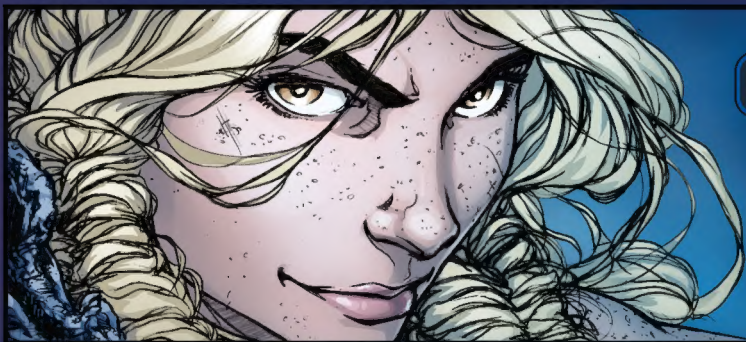
SORRY, KID.

TIME TO LEARN
A NEW TRICK!

TWSSHHHH

KRAKOOOSSHHHH

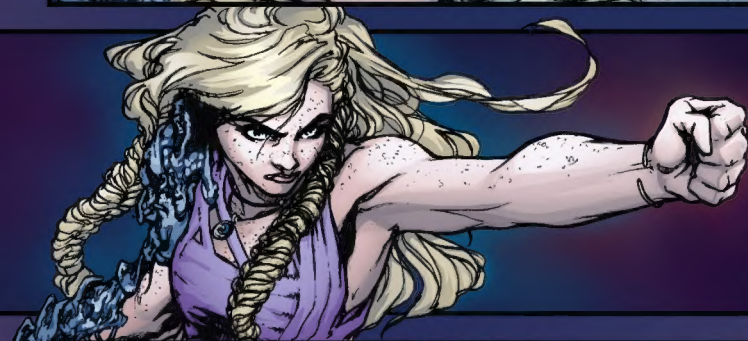




JUST WHAT I WANTED TO SEE.
THAT COCKY LITTLE GRIN.

SHE THINKS
I'M SPENT.

AND NOW IT'S TIME FOR
THE COUP DE GRACE.



PROBABLY ANOTHER ONE
OF THOSE BALLS OF ICE
FILLED WITH MAGMA.

SSHHNNNN

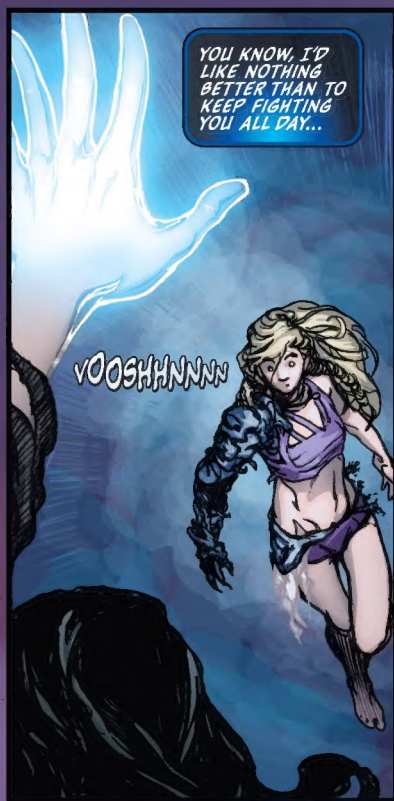


KSHH



WHAT'S THIS?
SURPRISE?
SHOCK?

MAYBE
A LITTLE
FEAR???



YOU KNOW, I'D
LIKE NOTHING
BETTER THAN TO
KEEP FIGHTING
YOU ALL DAY...

VOOSHHNNNN



LTTRROOKKKKSSHHHH

...BUT NOW THAT I'VE
FIGURED YOU OUT,
USING THE WATER AS
A TOOL RATHER THAN
THE WEAPON ITSELF?

I'M GETTING BORED.



IT'S TOO BAD,
REALLY, YOU DO
HAVE SKILLS.



UNFORTUNATELY, WHATEVER VANA
DID TO YOU CLEARLY MESSED
WITH YOUR HEAD, AS WELL.



SO WHILE WE FIGURE OUT
WHAT TO DO WITH YOU...

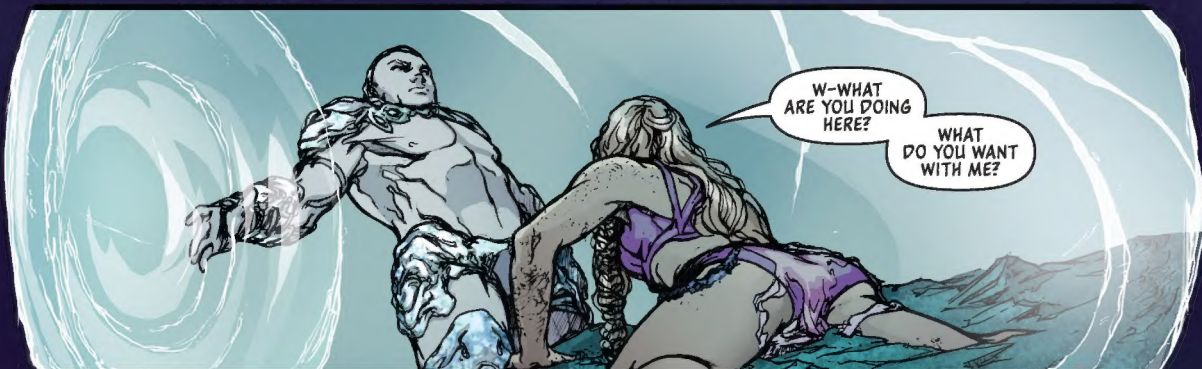
...I NEED TO MAKE SURE
THAT YOU DON'T WAKE
UP FOR A LONG TI--

WHOOOOO KKKSSSSHHHHHH





HE'S NOT PROUD OF WHAT HE'S DONE TO ASPEN, BUT THERE WAS SIMPLY NO OTHER CHOICE.



W-WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH ME?



I REMEMBER HOLDING YOUR FRAGILE LITTLE BODY IN MY ARMS, PROMISING YOUR MOTHER THAT I'D NEVER LET A SOUL HARM OUR PRECIOUS ANIKA.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? MY MOTHER IS VA--

--DEAD. SLAIN BY YOUR HAND. AND MINE, BECAUSE I FAILED TO KEEP EITHER OF YOU SAFE.



MY ATONEMENT BEGINS NOW, BY FULFILLING MY PROMISE TO ANYA AND PRESERVING YOUR MISSEGGOTTEN LIFE.

VMMMMMMMM



"YOU MUST GO, AND NEVER RETURN."



ARE YOU
FREAKIN' NUTS,
KILLIAN?



YOU TAKE OUT
ASPEN AND LET
THAT LITTLE MANIAC
LOOSE ON THE
WORLD?

WHOSE
SIDE ARE YOU ON,
ANYWAY?



ASPEN, CAN
YOU MOVE? C'MON.
WE GOTTA GO BEFORE THIS
LUNATIC SNAPS OUT OF
THIS TRANCE OR
WHATEVER.



COOL IT,
CHANCE. HE COULD'VE
KILLED BOTH OF US IF
HE WANTED TO.

BUT
KILLIAN, CAN
YOU AT LEAST
TELL US
WHY?



I REGRET
MY ACTIONS, ASPEN.
BUT THIS WAS A FAMILY
MATTER. YOU'RE FREE
TO LEAVE.



WHAT DO YOU
MEAN? KILLIAN-- WAIT.
YOU CAN'T JUST--



--GO???